METRO / A19

DOJ order puts Mark Jimenez, 3 others on watch list

SPORTS / A26

Spurs sweep Cavs, bag 4th NBA championship trophy

WORLD / A21

Talk is not cheap: Clinton made over $10M from speeches

SAT. SPECIAL / H1

Mia Farrow, Angelina Jolie, sterling models for silly, shallow stars

BUSINESS / B1

OFW remittances surge 26% to $4.7B

Jonas was no target, AFP intel chief claims

By TJ Burgonio

MISSING ACTIVIST JONAS BURGOS HAS NEVER been "a target of operation" by the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), according to its chief, Maj. Gen. Delfin Bangit.

Testifying yesterday before the Commission on Human Rights, which is looking into Burgos'

JONAS/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Saturday, June 16, 2007 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 188 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Explosion rips through Davao-bound bus; 9 die

By Orlando Dinoy
Inquirer Mindanao

BANSALAN, DAVAO DEL SUR—AT LEAST NINE people were killed and an undetermined number of others were injured when a bomb exploded inside a packed Weena Bus bound for Davao City here around 6 p.m. Friday.

Chief Insp. Sherwin Butil, the town's police

EXPLOSION/ A4

'This is a people's victory'

Jobless rate falls to 7.4%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S JOBLESS RATE fell to 7.4 percent in April in what economic managers said was a natural consequence of an economy that is on a roll.

Unemployment was down from 8.2 percent in April last year, according to the latest labor force survey conducted by the National Statistics Office, which was released yesterday.

Underemployment fell more steeply to 18.9 percent from 25.4 percent a year ago.

Against a labor force of 36.4 million, the 7.4-percent unemployment rate means there were 2.7 million jobless Filipinos as of April against 2.9 million jobless in April 2006 when the jobless rate stood at 35.6 million.

Looked at another way, this meant that more than a million new jobs were generated in that period.

"We are very happy to see the significant drop in the unemployment number. This is an offshoot of the strong economic growth in the first quarter of the year," said Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri in an interview.

The government earlier said that the economy grew at its fastest rate in 17 years, with gross domestic product (GDP) registering 6.9 percent in the three months to March, from a year earlier.

The National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), which Neri heads, earlier reported the growth in employment

JOBLESS/ A6

ANNING DEPARTMENT

HE'S THE MAN. Who would have thought this ex-naval officer behind bars on coup charges is now Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV? He spent only P5 million and had access to the media in the final days of the campaign. The Comelec makes it official at proclamation rites on Friday. REM ZAMORA

Erap sees acquittal; verdict out in 90 days

By Volt Contreras

AFTER LAWYERS IN HIS HISTORIC, P4.1-billion plunder trial clashed in open court for the last time yesterday, accused ex-President Joseph Estrada said his worry now was that the judges would be the target of "political pressure."

"They should be of independent mind and not pressured politically. With no pressure from the top, I believe 100 percent that I will be acquitted," the ousted President told the INQUIRER as he left the courtroom after a seven-hour oral summation.

The Sandiganbayan's special division, created to try Estrada and eight other respondents in the 6-year-old case, is expected to hand down a verdict within 90 days, as per the rules of court.

Visibly buoyant and in the mood to shake hands with lead prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio, Estrada even bragged that the exchange of arguments in court was "a mismatch" in favor of his team.

"It's like (General Santos Rep.) Antonino beating up Manny Pacquiao," he said, choosing as metaphor one of the most lopsided victories in the last May 14 elections.

The 9 a.m. hearing basically saw prosecutors and defense lawyers summing up their respective memorandums submitted two days earlier.

What began as a pointed exchange ended at around 4 p.m. with both sides exuding a sense of relief.

Defense counsel Jose Flaminiano even requested for a group photo with the court staff and justices for posterity's sake, apparently conscious of history being made.

The court obliged but Estrada did not join the photo opportunity.

During an earlier break in the hearing, Estrada showed no signs

ERAP SEES/ A10

Senator Trillanes to serve even in jail

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE COMMISSION ON Elections yesterday proclaimed Antonio Trillanes IV senator in a brief ceremony supposedly delayed by the initial refusal of Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon to let him out of military detention without a "manifestation of intent."

A handcuffed Trillanes and his military escorts made it to the Comelec head office in Intramuros, Manila, before noon, and was proclaimed the 11th winner of the senatorial race to loud applause and cheers from his family, friends, supporters, and Comelec employees.

Trillanes, one of the leaders of the Oakwood Mutiny in July 2003 and who is fighting charges of coup d'etat, said he "came in at the right time, when people longed for change."

"We cannot claim credit for this win. It was solely the people's victory... The people now have seen the light about the true identity of this administration," he told reporters.

Dressed in a crisp *barong Tagalog* with a Mao collar, the former Navy lieutenant stood in front of the election commissioners as Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. affirmed his victory.

Time stopped at the Comelec main office when Trillanes, escorted by several Marines, arrived at past 11 a.m.

Comelec employees temporarily abandoned their desks and joined media photographers in

IT'S A/ A4

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

SUPPORTING ROLES: For ex-President Estrada, his court appearance on Friday is perhaps the most important in the six years that he has been on trial for plunder. Even as his horde of rowdy supporters did not show up as usual, his family led by wife Sen. Loi Ejercito and daughter Jackie are behind him all the way.

Plunderwatch not keen on conviction

By Norman Bordadora
and Jeannette I. Andrade

WHAT A DIFFERENCE SEVEN years has made.

One of the leaders of an alliance of civil society and militant groups that called for Joseph Estrada's ouster in 2000 attended yesterday's oral summation in his plunder trial—but no longer with a call for his conviction.

Carol Araullo, a convenor of the Plunderwatch group that launched countless rallies against Estrada, said the ex-President should pay for his wrongdoings but she doubted this would happen under the current administration.

"We still believe that Erap should be held accountable for the things that he did," Araullo told the INQUIRER during the final hearing on charges that Estrada had plundered the economy and illegally amassed about P4 billion during his rule.

"The reason why you no longer see these groups calling for Mr. Estrada's conviction is because the sins of the Arroyo administration are much graver. You have political killings, graft and corruption, electoral fraud," Araullo said.

Araullo, chair of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, said she went to court "only to listen."

PLUNDERWATCH/ A10

Cha-cha on hold as Joe de V declares moratorium

By Michael Lim Ubac

HOUSE SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA is giving up on his scheme to shift the country to a parliamentary system, admitting that resurrecting the Charter change campaign at this time would be "divisive."

Over dinner with INQUIRER reporters and editors on Thursday, De Venecia called for a "total moratorium" on constitutional reform so the country can "devote [its] full energy to advancing the economic agenda."

"Sometimes I do feel like a broken record, time and again reiterating our stand on Charter change," said the Speaker who has consistently advocated a shift from a presidential to a parliamentary system.

De Venecia said he was leaving it to the leaders of civil society, the Church, the academe, industry and business, and the political parties to determine "the divisive question of when to carry out Charter reform and how."

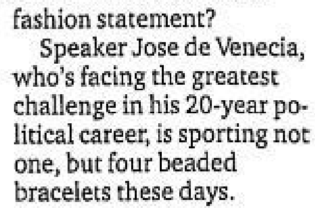
"It is time to put an end to the harsh rhetoric and to build consensus again. I reiterate that we—the majority coalition and the coalesced opposition—need to reach a working consensus on how to move this economic action program forward," he said, reading from a draft statement.

De Venecia said a moratorium on Cha-cha would enable Congress to focus on the "urgent economic issues."

But he said he continues to believe that a parliamentary system would be the best for the country "to prevent administrative gridlock and to strengthen our party system."

He said only the parliamentary system "can force our factions to group into larger, more cohesive and more socially responsible groupings. The confidence requirement on which the parliamentary government is built penalizes with expulsion from office the party that is unable to govern as a team."

CHA-CHA/ A6


MAGUGULUHAN ANG MGA DIYOS MO!

Interfaith bracelets keep Speaker safe

By Michael Lim Ubac

IS IT AN AMULET OR A fashion statement?

Speaker Jose de Venecia, who's facing the greatest challenge in his 20-year political career, is sporting not one, but four beaded bracelets these days.

It's not a fashion statement, he said, but an amulet to keep bad luck away. The

INTERFAITH/ A6

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, INQUIRER RESEARCH/06/15/07 SOURCE PAGASA

No failure in Maguindanao – Abalos

By Nikko Dizon

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (Comelec) Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said yesterday there was no failure of elections in Maguindanao, where Team Unity routed the opposition, 12-0, based on a manifestation filed by the lawyer of Governor-elect Datu Andal Ampatuan to the Comelec showing that the winning local candidates had already been proclaimed.

Abalos told reporters that documents submitted to the poll body on Wednesday by lawyer Pete Quadra, counsel of Ampatuan, showed that a proclamation of the winning local candidates had been ordered by the provincial board of canvassers (PBoC).

"All the evidence presented to us showed that there was no failure of elections in Maguindanao. It appeared that all the winning local candidates, from the governor to the councilors, have been proclaimed based on the results in the municipal certificates of canvass," Abalos said.

A photocopy of the eight-page, handwritten minutes of the proceedings of the PBoC was attached to Quadra's manifestation and showed that the board completed tabulating the 22 certificates of canvass from the 22 municipalities of Maguindanao.

The proceedings also ordered the tabulators to prepare the certificate of proclamation for the local positions and the provincial CoCs for the province.

The minutes of the meeting was signed by Lintang Bedol, the controversial provincial election supervisor as the PBoC chair, and the board's two members.

Yesterday, Maguindanao officials, who ran unopposed in the May 14 elections, finally took their oath of office en masse in a well-attended ceremony at the provincial capitol in Shariff Aguak town.

Although Ampatuan was absent, all members of the 10-man provincial board, the 22 mayors and vice mayors and 176 members of municipal councils of the province's 22 towns took part in the mass oath-taking.

The officials were sworn-in by Maguindanao Vice-Governor Sajid Islam Ampatuan, who assumed the task in the governor's absence.

The Comelec had deferred twice the tabulation of the Maguindanao provincial CoC, saying it was "statistically improbable" for 19 of the 37 senatorial candidates to get zero votes.

With Quadra's petition, opposition lawyers said at yesterday's hearing that since elections were proven to have been held last May, the Comelec should exclude the provincial CoC from the national canvassing and proclaim the Genuine Opposition's Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III, who is hanging on to the 12th slot.

But Abalos denied the GO's motion made by lawyer Leila de Lima.

Also fighting for the 12th slot is TU's Juan Miguel Zubiri.

The Maguindanao votes are crucial in the tally. As of June 11, the official Comelec count showed Pimentel with 10,865,397 votes putting him on a precarious 12th standing. Zubiri tails him at 13th spot with 10,753,836 votes—a difference of 111,555 votes. *With a report from Nash Maulana, Inquirer Mindanao*

The People Of Lanao del Norte & Iligan City

WILL NOT BE CHEATED!

On the morning of May 20, 2007 the ballot boxes containing the Certificates of Canvass (CoCs) of Kauswagan, Bacolod and Maigo towns of Lanao del Norte were found tampered. The official investigation of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) reports that the boxes were forcibly opened.

On June 1, 2007 the Provincial Board of Canvassers (PBOC) opened these tampered boxes. Indeed the CoCs inside were found to be tampered too. The tallies opposite the names of Badelles, Belmonte and Dimaporo were covered with snowpake and fresh figures were written over it

In spite of vehement protests, the PBOC proceeded in canvassing using the controversial CoCs.

The canvassed results out of these tampered CoCs show that the tallies do not coincide with the CoCs held by the minority party and the Peoples Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV). National Secretariat of Social Action (NASSA) and NAMFREL. The tally is statistically improbable based on the total voter turnout.

We have held prayer vigils, rallies, and peaceful demonstrations to show that we want the true people's voice to be heard.

We are letting the rest of the Filipino people know through this announcement that the people of Lanao del Norte & Iligan City will fight to get the truth out. We are not going to stand idly by while our rights are violated in our democracy.

OUR APPEAL TO THE COMELEC must be heard: the tampered Municipal Certificates of Canvass of Kauswagan, Bacolod and Maigo MUST BE EXCLUDED in determining the winning candidate for the 1st Congressional District of Lanao del Norte. Comelec must decide on this immediately.

OUR STRUGGLE WILL CONTINUE FOR GENUINE DEMOCRACY!

MOVEMENT for TRUTH, JUSTICE and PEACE
Non- Governmental Organizations, Peoples Organizations, Religious Groups, Media, Local Government Unit and concerned citizens

Cabinet shuffle a 'large-scale purge' – JDV

By Michael Lim Ubac, Michelle V. Remo and Gil Cabacungan

SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA has described the government reorganization contemplated by President Macapagal-Arroyo as a "large-scale purge" even as Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye insisted yesterday that move would not affect any Cabinet member.

De Venecia went so far as to tell the INQUIRER Thursday night that a purge of non-performing appointees of the President in both the Cabinet and government corporations and financial institutions could be likened to the "St. Valentine's (Day) Massacre," a reference to the shooting down of seven people during a gang war in Chicago in 1929.

Mrs. Gina de Venecia confirmed a Cabinet revamp was in the offing when the couple visited this paper's office the other night. She said she overheard the President announcing the move to Trade Secretary Peter Favila during the plane trip back to Manila following Ms Arroyo's visit to China.

"I heard her on the plane from China. She wants to implement all these changes," said the Speaker's spouse. "I think, she called for the resignation of all appointees."

During his regular press briefing on Wednesday, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said President Macapagal-Arroyo had asked heads of Government -Owned and -Controlled Corporations and Government Financial Institutions (GOCCs and GFIs) to tender their resignation. "It's not courtesy resignation. The President asked them to submit their resignation so that she will have a free hand … to reorganize," Ermita said.

Asked if the order included Cabinet members, he said: "Everybody. It goes under that principle that the President alone is the appointing (authority). Leave it to her. Everyone serves at the pleasure of the President."

However, this was contradicted by Bunye yesterday, or two days later. Bunye said "no such order" (asking Cabinet members to resign) was given.

"The President was very specific. She was just referring to GOCCs and GFIs," he said. "Any news purporting to expand the coverage of the order to include members of the Cabinet is totally inaccurate."

Even so, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said yesterday he would file a courtesy resignation to give President Arroyo a free hand in changing the leadership at the Department of Finance should she decide to do so.

Teves said he would file the resignation either on Monday or Tuesday, adding that no matter what the President said, he would voluntarily submit a courtesy resignation so as to make it easier for her to decide whether she wanted a new finance secretary.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya made a similar announcement but said later he would first seek a clarification from the President.

"Without an instruction, we will not submit a courtesy resignation," Andaya told reporters.

The finance chief said that in a recent meeting with members of her economic team, the Chief Executive expressed concern about the government's revenue collection, which as of April was off-track to meet the full-year target.

The shortfall was due to below-target revenue collection by the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs, attached agencies of the DOF. The lower-than-expected revenue led to a higher-than-target budget deficit.

In the first quarter, the government's budget deficit hit P52 billion, missing the official target of limiting the budget gap to only P45.8 billion.

Teves said the President was more worried about the performance of the BIR, the government's biggest revenue contributor among line agencies.

Responding to questions about the prospect of BIR Commissioner Jose Mario Bunag being axed, Teves said the President was still waiting for the results of the tax collection in May before making a formal decision.

Also yesterday, administration Sen. Edgardo Angara said he believed that President Arroyo was compelled to shake up her Cabinet in response to the stinging setback suffered by administration candidates in the senatorial elections.

"Although I don't think she was defeated in other contests (local and congressional polls), the (senatorial elections) is a major political defeat and it calls for a drastic facelift," said Angara, one of only two Team Unity candidates that managed to sneak into the top 12.

Angara said the President's call for Cabinet officials and appointees in government owned and controlled corporations and government financial institutions to resign was "timely and expected."

"As an organization man, I think you have to undergo a revamp of your staff when a major event happens. This is the tradition in Asia. When you change Cabinet, you change personnel, present a new face, a fresh approach to things," said Angara.

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WHAT WENT BEFORE

A BLAST FROM THE PAST: It was back to barracks for then Navy Lt. Trillanes, one of the leaders of about 300 rebel soldiers, after they ended a standoff of more than 19 hours at the Oakwood Hotel at Ayala Center without a single shot fired. PDI PHOTO

EARLY ON JULY 27, 2003, SOME 321 soldiers took over the Oakwood Premiere serviced apartments in Ayala Center, Makati City, to demand the resignation of certain officials and air their grievances on the military.

Calling themselves the Magdalo group, the soldiers called for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo, then Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, then Philippine National Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, and the then chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Victor Corpus.

They aired their complaints regarding supposed anomalies in the AFP Retirement and Separation Benefits System, the military procurement system (including the purchase of substandard equipment for soldiers), and the construction and repair of various facilities at Marine Base Cavite, as well as the alleged transfer of arms and ammunition to unauthorized parties.

The mutineers occupied Oakwood for at least 20 hours before emerging from negotiations with the government and ending their uprising. They were later charged with coup d'etat.

Among those charged was the Magdalo spokesperson, Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV.

On July 29, Ms Arroyo formed a commission, with retired Supreme Court Justice Florentino Feliciano as chair, to investigate the mutiny.

The Feliciano Commission issued its report on Oct. 16, asserting that the mutiny was rooted in corruption in the military and underscoring the need for its modernization.

It warned that the AFP "could implode and collapse with unpredictable consequences" if the issues were not addressed.

But the commission also concluded that while some of the soldiers' grievances were legitimate, the mutiny was a "well-planned" power grab, and not a spontaneous protest.

It said that according to facts it had gathered, the soldiers plotted to take over the government and establish a 15-member council, but that the plot was discovered and Ms Arroyo ordered their arrest on the evening of July 26. ***Lawrence de Guzman, Inquirer Research***

PHOTO OP: Man in white is the center of attention at the Comelec after his proclamation as a senator of the republic. The Comelec commissioners pose with him for a souvenir shot: From left, Commissioner Resurreccion Borra, Chair Benjamin Abalos and Commissioner Florentino Tuason Jr. REM ZAMORA

'It's a people's victory'

From page A1

jostling to take snapshots of the man.

Mother Lily

Flanked by two "mothers"—his own mother Estelita Trillanes and movie producer "Mother" Lily Monteverde—Trillanes took time to pose for photo opportunities with the election commissioners after the proclamation ceremony.

The talk was that Monteverde was interested in making a movie on Trillanes' life, with actor and Team Unity senatorial candidate Cesar Montano in the title role.

Asked how he intended to fulfill his duties as a senator while behind bars, Trillanes said he would ask the courts to allow him to attend the sessions and hearings, even if it meant having to go back to his detention cell at night.

"The Senate can amend its rules to accommodate my peculiar situation because the Senate makes its own rules," he said.

His mother, overjoyed by his triumph, was confident that he would be able to perform his senatorial duties while in detention.

"With the help of God, he will be able to overcome the barriers to his service," she told the INQUIRER.

"On the basis of the certificates of canvass submitted to the [Comelec] sitting en banc, the National Board of Canvassers finds that as of 12 noon June 14, 2007, [Trillanes] received the 11th highest number of votes in the [elections]," Abalos said.

Per the latest Comelec tally, Trillanes garnered a total 11.13 million votes, which, he said, came from people throughout the country who longed "for somebody new, a new alternative who can offer them something better."

He reiterated that his victory was a "vindication" of the cause of the Magdalo group of soldiers that took over the Oakwood (since renamed Astoria) serviced apartments in Makati City to denounce the alleged corruption in the military and the government.

Speaking in Filipino, Trillanes thanked his supporters crowding the Comelec session hall.

"I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who helped bring about this victory. This is the nation's victory. In return, I can do nothing but offer true public service. You can expect that the protection of the national interest will be my advocacy as a senator," he said.

When reporters asked him if he had a message for President Macapagal-Arroyo, he replied: "Let's keep the mood festive in the meantime."

But Trillanes assailed Esperon, saying the general "tried to impose his will against everybody, against the Comelec, the court order, even his Commander in Chief..."

"He even tried to impose his will on the 11 million people who voted for me, but he had to back down because public opinion was so strong... I hope he realizes his true place in this government structure," Trillanes said.

In its proper place

Trillanes' lawyer, Reynaldo Robles, later said they would file contempt charges against Esperon should they find out that his supposed failure to allow the senator-elect out of detention was deliberate.

Robles said Trillanes' camp would also make sure that the AFP would be "put in [its] proper place" should it pull another stunt like yesterday.

"If we have an AFP chief that does not follow court orders, he should retire. He has no place in this government," Robles said.

But AFP information chief Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro denied that Esperon had tried to make it difficult for Trillanes to attend his proclamation.

Per Bacarro's account, Esperon told someone from Trillanes' camp that they must first go to the military court to "manifest their intent" for the senator-elect to attend the proclamation. That person supposedly replied that they would do that.

But even before such a manifestation was made, Esperon gave instructions to Trillanes' custodians at the Marine detention facility at Fort Bonifacio to allow him to leave for his proclamation, Bacarro said.

2 courts

But because there is no established jurisprudence on this issue, Bacarro said Trillanes still had to seek permission from the military court trying his case to be allowed to attend sessions in the Senate.

That's apart from the permission that he must also seek from the Makati Regional Trial Court, Bacarro said.

Bacarro also said that based on existing military regulations, the AFP chief of staff would have the final say on Trillanes' request to be allowed to attend Senate sessions.

Indeed, Bacarro said, the situation would trigger "legal debates as to how we will carry out the provisions of his detention, and so on and so forth."

"This is the first time we have a senator elected by the people who is subjected to military jurisdiction," he said.

Bacarro reiterated that the military continued to have jurisdiction over Trillanes because the case he was facing happened when he was still in active service.

Trillanes was charged by both the military and civilian courts in 2003, long before he decided early this year to run for senator.

He is facing a charge of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman before a general court-martial, and a coup d'etat charge before the Makati RTC.

"We have two different courts, and their custody provisions are different from each other," Bacarro said.

No intervention

Malacañang congratulated Trillanes after he was proclaimed senator, but said it would not intervene on the issue of whether he could leave detention to attend to his duties in the Senate.

"I suppose we'll just have to agree that the people voted him into office, and we wish him the best in his duty as senator of the republic," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said over Radyo ng Bayan.

Gabriel Claudio, the President's chief political adviser, said in a phone interview: "Well, congratulations to him. All the best on his assumption of his new role as senator."

Claudio said, however, that Trillanes would have to face the charges against him despite his election as a legislator: "He will have to face the music and acquit himself before the courts. His fate is not in the hands of the executive [branch] but the courts."

Claudio also said the courts trying Trillanes for his role in the Oakwood mutiny should proceed "independently of his status" as a new senator.

"Why should his status influence the cases against him? Justice continues to be blind irrespective of one's status, and they should make a decision according to the merits of the case and not on the basis of whether he's senator or not," Claudio said.

And the President will not interfere when Trillanes seeks freedom to attend the Senate sessions, Claudio said.

"She will not intervene one way or another, on how he will be able to participate physically in the workings of the Senate. I think everybody presumes that the courts will have to do their job irrespective of recent political developments," said Claudio, who also heads the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Corrections

In the June 14 issue, a front-page window misstated that the Inquirer's Tuesday issue was inadvertently priced at P20. The error was made on June 13, Wednesday - not Tuesday.

* * *

In the same issue, an article on page A18 - "Archers tame Lions, rule Filoil tourney" - stated erroneously that the San Beda Red Lions beat the De La Salle Archers in the 1978 National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball championship. The Red Lions defeated the Ateneo Blue Eagles that year - not the De La Salle Archers.

* * *

In the June 15 issue, an article on page A7—"PNP doctor who killed superior officer dismissed"—misstated that dismissed Chief Insp. Renato Poscalbo shot and killed Chief Supt. Federico Damatac last November inside Camp Crame. Damatac was only injured in the incident.

In the same issue, a head on page A5—"Ping seeks revival of Jose Pidal probe"—was accompanied by the wrong story. The correct story and headline follow:

Ping seeks revival of Jose Pidal probe

By Dona Pazzibugan

SEN. PANFILO LACSON WILL reopen the investigation into the "Jose Pidal" and "Hello Garci" scandals if he gets the chairmanship of the Senate blue ribbon committee.

Lacson said he would initiate the investigation for the sake of "closure."

"It's not actually a priority, but these two very important issues need closure," he said yesterday.

In several privilege speeches in the Senate in 2003, Lacson claimed that First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo had control of several bank accounts under the name of "Jose Pidal."

During the subsequent hearings in both houses of Congress, Arroyo's brother, now Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio Arroyo, came forward to claim that he owned the accounts but refused to answer any questions as he said he was a private citizen.

Lacson has also been harping on the Hello Garci wiretapping scandal in which President Macapagal-Arroyo is alleged to have been caught on tape talking with a former election commissioner, Virgilio Garcillano, to ensure her victory in the 2004 presidential election.

Lacson ran for president in 2004 but placed a far third behind the President's chief rival, the late movie actor Fernando Poe Jr.

Lacson, a former police chief who won a second six-year Senate term in the May elections, has openly declared his desire to get control of the blue ribbon committee from Sen. Joker Arroyo.

Lacson said Arroyo did not do enough to investigate the Jose Pidal scandal.

"We may not recommend charges but there must be closure. There was a resolution, a privilege speech. There should have been a committee report after the committee hearings. Unfortunately it never happened," he said.

Lacson said the allegations of cheating during the May elections in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao could have been avoided had the Comelec officials implicated in the Hello Garci scandal been fired.

He doubted whether the Comelec would investigate the so-called "Garci boys" like Maguindanao provincial supervisor Lintang Bedol and Lanao del Sur provincial supervisor Rey Sumalipao.

"I want to see action taken, not press releases," he said.

Explosion rips through Davao-bound bus; 9 die

From page A1

chief, said the explosion occurred as the bus which just came from Cotabato City was leaving the public terminal.

"No group has claimed responsibility for the attack," Butil told reporters. "We're still investigating whether Muslim militants or criminal groups engaged in extortion were behind the bombing," he said.

Bomb disposal experts were immediately dispatched to the area to conduct an investigation.

Thirty minutes prior to the explosion, another bomb also went off inside another Weena bus in Cotabato City but no one was reported injured.

Witnesses said the bus was carrying many passengers at the time of the explosion.

Jovito Martinez, yardman of Weena Bus Company in Davao City, identified the driver of Weena Bus 1104 as Darlito Lo. It was not known whether Lo was also injured. He remained missing as of press time.

Man with backpack

A passenger of the ill-fated bus told the INQUIRER that she suspected the bombers were the two men who boarded the bus in Kidapawan City in North Cotabato.

She said one of the men sat behind the driver, while the other one, who was carrying a black backpack, sat near the second door at the bus' middle part.

She said she already noticed that the two men were "talking via signal."

"They were nodding at each other. When the bus was about to leave, the one sitting at the second door disembarked," she said, adding she did not notice the other man.

She said another passenger, who was seated beside the suspect, reminded him of his backpack "but he said he was just going to urinate."

The man was allegedly holding a device, similar to a remote. "It was too small for a cell phone," she said.

When other passengers noticed that the man was in a hurry, they immediately suspected that the backpack contained a bomb.

The conductor picked it up and placed it near the driver.

Another passenger, she said, opened the bag and saw that it contained sand and a ketchup container.

Panic

"Then the passengers panicked forcing the conductor to bring it down. In less than 10 seconds, it exploded," she said.

Eddie Soledad, manager of the Weena Bus terminal in Cotabato City, said 30 minutes before the Bansalan explosion, a bomb also went off in Cotabato City inside an aircon bus that had just arrived from Davao City.

Soledad said nobody was injured because the passengers and the bus' crew had already disembarked when the explosion occurred.

'Bus in shatters'

He said based on police investigation, the bomb was an improvised explosive device. "The bus was in shatters," he said.

The Weena bus company has been a target of previous bomb attacks. A bomb exploded at the Weena bus terminal in Cotabato City last May 18, killing a 5-year-old boy and wounding at least 30 other people. On June 8, a bomb also exploded inside a parked Weena bus in Matalam, North Cotabato, wounding 10 people.

The fatalities in the Bansalan blast have not been identified as of press time.

But a police investigator at the scene identified two of the dead passengers as Pepe Villotes and Wilson Menil.

Only four of the wounded victims were identified. They were Joy Teves, Dandan Mendez, bus conductor Rasti Antilino and Teodora Salucat.

The bus firm has been receiving threats from extortionists according to the management.

Soledad said the recent threat came in the form of an extortion letter signed by a certain Barumbado.

Protection money

He said Barumbado had warned of more explosions if the company fails to give P2 million in protection money.

Soledad said because of this, the management decided to reduce the number of their air conditioned buses plying the Cotabato-Davao route from 30 to only 10.

The latest explosion occurred as Washington warned of terror attacks in Central Mindanao.

But US bomb experts, who helped investigate the Matalam bomb attack, ruled out the involvement of the Jemaah Islamiyah in the incident, saying it was the work of amateurs. *With reports from Eldie Aguirre, Edwin Fernandez and Joselle Badilla, Inquirer Mindanao, Alcuin Papa and Reuters*

PEACE MESSENGER
Hirdaya "Dadi Gulzar" Mohini, one of three administrative heads of the global NGO Brahma Kumaris, arrives at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport yesterday. She is the special guest speaker in "Time and Transformation," a free "experiential entertainment" program at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City, on Monday. Brahma Kumaris is a UN Peace Messenger organization. Based in Rajasthan, India, it has 900,000 students of Raja Yoga meditation in 8,500 centers across 90 countries.

Nene Pimentel goes under knife

SENATE MINORITY FLOOR LEADER Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr. yesterday underwent spinal surgery but his backers quickly doused fears that this would affect his bid to ease out Senate President Manuel Villar from his post.

In a text message before his 7 a.m. operation yesterday at the Asian Hospital, Pimentel said: "My operation for spinal stenosis (narrowing of spaces in the spine) will interrupt our dialogue on national issues. God willing, we will resume it as soon as I am fully recovered."

Pimentel was expected to be discharged from the hospital either late yesterday or today.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Pimentel's main backer for his return to the Senate's top post, said: "Unless he becomes both physically and mentally incapacitated, it should not affect his chances."

At least 13 opposition senators are holding a series of caucuses to agree among themselves whom they would vote Senate president before the 14th Congress opens next month.

Pimentel and Villar had excused themselves from the caucus as opposition members firm up their commitments to vote for whomever the group would choose and not to make any side deals with the administration that would weaken their position.

In a forum sponsored by the Manila Overseas Press Club, incoming Sen. Loren Legarda stressed the need for the opposition to move as a single bloc in the Senate to stamp its will on the upper chamber.

"It would be pathetic if after having won overwhelmingly, we would lose our advantage," said Legarda, who refused to say if she would vote for Villar or Pimentel.

The opposition will hold a secret ballot next week.

In the same forum, incoming Sen. Francis Escudero said keeping the cohesiveness of the opposition as a block was more important than who would be their leader.

"The public voted us together and it is our obligation to be together," said Escudero. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Lawmakers worldwide seek release of 'Ka Bel'

PARLIAMENTARIANS WORLDwide have expressed concern over the continued detention of militant party-list Rep. Crispin "Ka Bel" Beltran despite a Supreme Court ruling ordering the dismissal of the rebellion charges earlier filed against the solon.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), a global organization of 147 affiliated parliaments and seven associated regional assemblies, has written two of President Macapagal-Arroyo's top lieutenants to complain against the government's failure to release the 74-year-old lawmaker.

"(We) are alarmed at this state of affairs, and call on you to ensure that the authorities comply with the Supreme Court order, as is their duty," Anders Johnsson, IPU secretary general, wrote in a letter from Geneva dated June 4.

Johnsson said he was also writing on behalf of Canadian Sen. Sharon Carstairs, vice president of the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians.

Together with committee secretary Ingeborg Schwarz, the two visited the country last April to inquire about the alleged government repression of Beltran and five other militant party-list lawmakers.

He said he was writing "as a matter of urgency" pending the release of the team's visit. *Christian V. Esguerra*

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NEGOSYO SESSION AREA 1

JUNE 28, 2007 THURSDAY	JUNE 29, 2007 FRIDAY	JUNE 30, 2007 SATURDAY
9am-10:30am Negosyo Session For Carinderia COCA-COLA	9am-10:30am How To Make Your Menu More Nutricious DATU PUTI	9am-10:30am How to make more profit in your HORECA Business - SAFI
11am-12pm Grocery NESTLE-gosyo Session	11am-12pm Grocery NESTLE-gosyo Session	11am-12pm Grocery NESTLE-gosyo Session
1pm-2:30pm Food, Safety & Hygiene In your HORECA Business DATU PUTI	2pm-3pm Food Service Negosyo Session NESTLE	2pm-3pm Food Service Negosyo Session NESTLE
3pm-5pm Grocery and Food Service Negosyo Session NESTLE	4pm-5pm Negosyo Session PUREFOODS SAN MIGUEL CORP.	4pm-5pm CDO Challenge
5:30pm-7pm Negosyo Session for Carinderia COCA-COLA	5:30pm-7pm CENTURY Culinary Circle Kusina ARGENTINA Cooking Club	5:30pm-7pm Negosyo Session For Carinderia COCA-COLA

NEGOSYO SESSION AREA 3

JUNE 28, 2007 THURSDAY	JUNE 29, 2007 FRIDAY	JUNE 30, 2007 SATURDAY
9am-10:30am PWEDE NA The Complete Guide to Personal Financing - EFREN CRUZ - GREPALIFE	9am-9:30am Baking Demo SAN MIGUEL CORP.	10:30am-11:30am BANKARD versus Cash Purchases
11am-1:30pm Makronomics Session UNILEVER	10:30am-12pm Makronomics Session UNILEVER	11:30am-1pm PWEDE NA The Complete Guide to Personal Financing - EFREN CRUZ - GREPALIFE
2pm-4pm Wagi-Wagi sa Sari-Sari COLGATE PALMOLIVE	1pm-2pm Tabo-Tabo, Timba-Timba at Batya-Batyang Pangkabuhayan 3J PLASTIC WORLD	1pm-3pm UNILEVER Makronomics Session
	2:30pm-4:30pm DODO is Negosyo PTC COMMERCIAL CORP	
5:30pm-6pm Tipid at Lakas ng Negosyo Sagot ng ALASKA	5pm-6pm Cooking Demo Thai Agri	4pm-5pm Meet & Greet SAN MIGUEL CORP.

NEGOSYO SESSION AREA 2

JUNE 28, 2007 THURSDAY	JUNE 29, 2007 FRIDAY	JUNE 30, 2007 SATURDAY
9am-10:30am EXCLUSIVE FGD (by invitation only) J&J	9:30am-10:30am Wagi-Wagi sa Sari-Sari COLGATE - PALMOLIVE	9am-10:30am Negosyo Session For Carinderia COCA-COLA
11am-12:30pm Business Solution for Todays Entrepreneurs GLOBE TELECOM	12pm-2pm Dress up your Tindahan Merchandising Session UNILEVER	10:30am-12pm Merchandising Session UNILEVER
1pm-2:30pm Dress up your Tindahan Merchandising Session UNILEVER	2:30pm-4pm PWEDE NA The Complete Guide to Personal Financing - EFREN CRUZ - GREPALIFE	1pm-2:30pm Dagdag Negosyo para sa inyo handog ng GREPALIFE
4pm-5pm Cooking Demo SAN MIGUEL		3pm-5pm White King Products Cooking Demo RFM Corp.
5:30pm-6pm Nutrition for Better Healthcare UNITED PET FOOD	5:30pm-6pm Dogfood for Care or Toxins UNITED PET FOOD	5:30pm-6pm Values of Pet Nutrition UNITED PET FOOD

SPECIAL EVENTS AREA

JUNE 28, 2007 THURSDAY	JUNE 29, 2007 FRIDAY	JUNE 30, 2007 SATURDAY
9am-10am OPENING CEREMONY (by invitation)	9:30am-12:30pm Makro Cooking Competition w/ Mascot Appearance NESTLE	9:30am-12:30pm Makro Cooking Competition w/ Mascot Appearance NESTLE
10am-1pm Cooking Demo AJI-NO-MOTO	1pm-2:30pm Cooking Demo featuring Thailand's Top Celebrity Chef Mr. Walter Lee VENTURETEC	1pm-4:30pm Presentation w/ Celebrities NESCAFE
1:30pm-3pm Presentation w/ Celebrities NESCAFE	3pm-5pm Presentation w/ Celebrities NESCAFE	
3:30pm-5pm 101 Ways of Preparing Chicken BOUNTY FRESH CHICKEN		
5:30pm-7pm Bartending Eliminations	5:30pm-7pm Bartending Eliminations	5pm-7pm Bartending Eliminations

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Sucat	Ming	0917-820-3204	(02) 850-6570	Iloilo	Mereuel	0917-820-3211	(033) 329-2701
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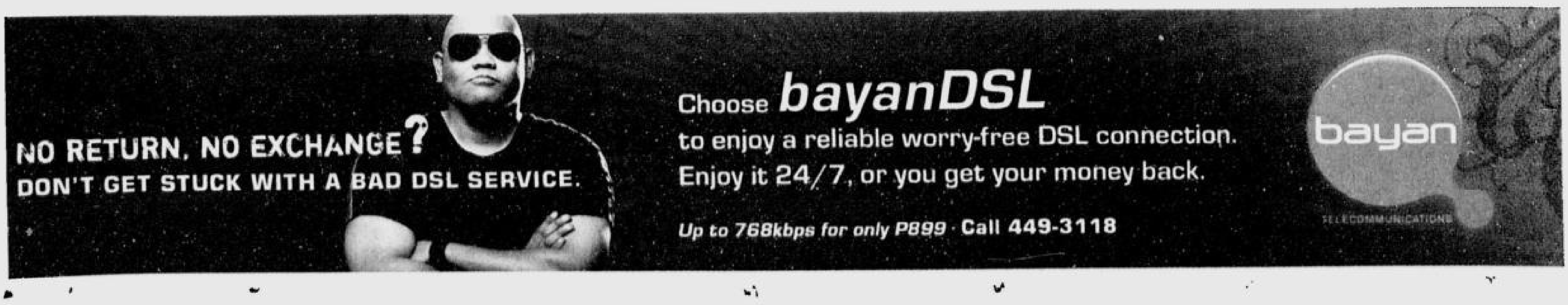
Pampanga	Marcel	0917-820-3208	(045) 625-5144	Mandaluyong	Reisan	0917-820-3215	(02) 535-7217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Jonas was no target, AFP intel chief claims

From page A1

abduction and subsequent disappearance, Bangit cleared his agency of any role in the case: "I can categorically say that as far as the Isafp is concerned, [it] has nothing to do with the reported disappearance of Jonas."

Bangit also said that so far, the Isafp had not gathered any information "linking an element of the Armed Forces to his disappearance."

But when asked if it were possible that Burgos could have been the target of intelligence units of the Army, Navy, Air Force, or the Philippine National Police, Bangit said: "We can't discount that possibility. We have to look into all possibilities."

Earlier yesterday in a 45-minute closed-door session, Burgos' mother Edita tagged the military as responsible for her son's disappearance, according to Commissioner Dominador Calamba II.

Speaking with reporters after the hearing, Edita expressed doubt over Bangit's testimony as well as dissatisfaction with the two-day public hearing.

"There's nothing new. Jonas is still missing. We don't know where he is," she said.

Wrap-up

With Bangit's testimony, the CHR wrapped up its inquiry into the "enforced disappearance" of the 37-year-old son of the late press freedom icon Jose "Joe" Burgos.

It is expected to issue a resolution 30 days after its legal department had gotten the statements of Lt. Col. Melquiades Feliciano, commander of the 56th Infantry Battalion in Norzagaray, Bulacan, and Lt. Col. Edison Caga, commander of the 69th IB in Nueva Ecija.

Burgos, an agriculturist providing technical training to members of the Alyansang Magbubukid ng Bulacan, the local chapter of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), was snatched from the Ever Gotesco mall in Quezon City on April 28 and has not been seen since.

His family pointed to the 56th IB as the main suspect after police evidence showed that the license plate of the vehicle used in the abduction had originally been on a jeep impounded at the Norzagaray camp. (The military claimed that the plate was stolen from the jeep.)

Testifying at the hearing, KMP national council member Joseph Canlas backed the theory that military men had abducted Burgos. He said this was the common belief in the KMP ranks as well as in Bulacan.

With Canlas' testimony, Commissioners Calamba, Quintin Cueto and Eligio Mallari decided not to call Edita Burgos to the witness stand anymore.

Bangit later told reporters that the AFP would not abduct people for any purpose.

"I have served the Armed Forces for too long, and [it] is a very respectable institution. And there's no reason for [it] to do that kind of activity. We are sworn to abide by the rule of law," he said.

SURFACE
JONAS BURGOS
STOP
ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES!

IN ANGUISH: "There's nothing new," Mrs. Edita Burgos says at the conclusion on Friday of the CHR inquiry into the disappearance of her son, Jonas. Another son JL Burgos accompanied his mother to the hearing.

JOAN BONDOC

Enemy of the state

When asked by Commissioner Calamba if Burgos was considered "an enemy of the state," Bangit said: "Frankly, we don't have in our list the name of Jonas Burgos. So he was never a target of Isafp."

He admitted that the Isafp had a unit operating in all cities of Metro Manila, but said he could not guarantee that there was such a unit in the vicinity of the Ever Gotesco mall on Commonwealth Avenue on April 28.

"Normally, we will be there only if there are reasons to be there. If there are no targets in Quezon City, then we can't be in Quezon City," he said, adding:

"If our believed enemies of the state are frequenting Tondo, then we'd frequent Tondo."

Bangit said the Isafp had "leads," which he shared with the CHR commissioners in an executive session last week. He declined to say what these leads were at the CHR public hearing.

He said the Isafp was having a tough time "getting information pointing to the whereabouts of Burgos," and attributed this to the lack of informers.

But the Isafp will continue to gather information and relay this to the police or the CHR, he said. He also appealed to the public to come forward with any information on Burgos' whereabouts.

"I'm hoping we'll retrieve him alive... But I don't think we will be able to solve this [case]," Bangit said.

'How long has it been?'

Edita told reporters that the family's next step would be to take legal action against the abductors.

Asked to comment on Bangit's testimony, she said: "It's not important whether I believe it or not. What's important is that, is it true? There's no new lead. How long has it been? More than a month.

"How can you believe that the supposedly best intelligence agency of the Philippines can't even have additional information?"

Commenting on the CHR hearing, Edita said: "They're still doing their work. I can't say that they're not doing anything. Yet, what I hear now are the same things I've heard before."

To the question of whether she was frustrated with the situation, she said: "That's an understatement. We don't know what's happening to Jonas right now. You can't imagine the anguish of a mother."

Protracted exchange

Apart from Edita, her son Jose Luis, their lawyer Ricardo Fernandez, and members of human rights and peasants' groups were present at the hearing.

The formal hearing, initially scheduled at 9:30 a.m., did not start until an hour later because the commissioners had decided to first meet with the Burgos family and the other witnesses in a closed-door session.

During that session, the commissioners asked Edita who she thought had abducted her son, and she said it was the military.

Edita refused to take the witness stand after the closed-door session and, through her lawyer, said she preferred to testify in the afternoon, after Bangit.

This set off a protracted exchange between Fernandez and Commissioner Calamba.

"We just want to ask her two or three questions since she has indicted the military. We just want that to be put on record," Calamba said.

Fernandez stuck to his client's position, and retorted that the CHR could ask Edita those questions later in the day.

An annoyed Calamba then declared that the CHR had decided not to call Edita to the witness stand.

After the hourlong hearing in the morning, Fernandez said his client preferred to testify after Bangit so she could reply to his testimony.

"This is an investigation of the enforced disappearance of Jonas Burgos. We're not the ones being investigated here," he said.

Cha-cha ...

From page A1

This is the second time that the Speaker has had to disengage himself from Cha-cha.

At the height of massive opposition to the Cha-cha drive last December, De Venecia ordered a resolution calling for Congress to constitute itself into a constituent assembly to make changes to the Constitution archived to "calm down and consolidate the nation."

But then he appeared to have revived the campaign in a speech during celebrations to commemorate the centennial of the House last June 7.

His main rival for the speakership, Cebu Representative-elect Pablo Garcia, is anchoring his campaign to challenge De Venecia's tight grip on the post on a platform of "no Cha-cha."

De Venecia, who is president of the ruling Lakas Christian-Muslim Democrats, said the 12-point economic action program that he and the majority coalition recently signed emphasized the further strengthening of the country's economic performance.

"We must sustain the economic gains we have achieved since we expanded the value-added-tax," which he said enabled the country to regain a measure of investor confidence.

He said reform legislation was needed to speed up market opening and enable the country to "catch Asia's new wave of growth."

"We need to raise our country's competitiveness by lowering our costs of doing business and improving workers' productivity," he said.

Economic action program

Also included in the 12-point economic action program is the push to modernize education with emphasis on math and science to enable young Filipinos to compete in the global "knowledge society."

The program calls for focus on the country's "core strengths in industry and the service sector by striving to become a hub of global business-process outsourcing, information technology and logistics."

He said the tourism industry has a vast potential for growth because of the country's "natural attractions and gracious people that give us a comparative advantage."

De Venecia stressed the need to develop alternative fuel and energy sources to avoid the expected crunch in the global oil supply.

He said the country should put an end to the insurgencies, bridge the gap between urban and rural economies by modernizing agriculture, and raise rural incomes.

Interfaith bracelets keep Speaker safe

From page A1

onyx bracelets have kept him safe for years, he added.

But will these "good-luck charms" protect him from the threat posed by Cebu congressman-elect Pablo Garcia who plans to secure the House speakership and dash De Venecia's hopes of a record-breaking fifth term?

De Venecia explained that the four beaded bracelets represented four faiths: "Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim and Christian," he told INQUIRER reporters and editors over dinner on Thursday.

"These are my shields, my good-luck charms," the Speaker said, adding that wearing the bracelets showed that he personally adhered to the idea of an interfaith dialogue which he had proposed and which was unanimously adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September 2006.

De Venecia said he obtained the bracelets over the years during his trips abroad.

"They have been with me for years... they have kept me healthy," he said.

But when one of the editors commented that he had never noticed the bracelets in past dinners with the INQUIRER, De Venecia said: "*Dalawa lang dati. Apat na ngayon* (Before I only had two, now I have four of them). More is better."

He explained that it was wise to have all the major faiths in the world protecting him from evil.

Fat envelope

During dinner, De Venecia defended himself from allegations that his camp had tried to bribe Manila Rep.-elect Amado "Dondon" Bagatsing, in exchange for supporting the Speaker's "legislative agenda."

Bagatsing, a member of President Macapagal-Arroyo's Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) party, admitted affixing his signature to the agenda—a declaration of unity for reform and development—which De Venecia later presented to Malacañang.

The last paragraph, however, pledged support for De Venecia's reelection as Speaker.

Bagatsing made it clear that he did not mean to throw his support behind De Venecia's bid for a fifth term as Speaker.

Bagatsing also claimed he was handed a "fat envelope" by a staff of De Venecia. But the Speaker's chief of staff, lawyer Evelyn Panlaque, denied that such an attempt was made.

"I have the numbers already," De Venecia said, stressing that with 166 House members supporting him, he need not bribe any congressman to remain as House leader.

Change of heart

He said Bagatsing could have been the 167th signatory to the declaration were it not for his change of heart.

Four days after the May 14 polls, De Venecia had brought a throng of congressmen to Malacañang to prove that he still had a groundswell of support in the House.

He said the only other time he did this was during the Ramos presidency.

De Venecia recounted that when former President Fidel V. Ramos saw that the majority of the House was him, "Ramos said, 'I am for you.'"

Caucus before Cha-cha

Meanwhile, Garcia has claimed that he has the support of 100 House members. He would need 123 votes to wrest the speakership from De Venecia.

"To put an end to harsh rhetoric and to build consensus," De Venecia has called for a "moratorium" on Charter change *(see story on Page A1)* and a "caucus between Pabling Garcia and myself."

"If they have the numbers, I will nominate him, and vice versa," the Speaker said, "to put an end to this outlandish statement by both sides that they have the numbers."

The caucus, which would include all members of the administration coalition, should be held "as soon as possible."

"Next week or early July," De Venecia said. "They will come if we call them."

Empty and misleading

Bagatsing said De Venecia's claims that he had the support of majority of incoming congressmen was "empty and grossly misleading."

In a statement, Bagatsing said De Venecia had resorted to misrepresentation by bandying a list of congressmen whom he said supported his speakership bid when many of them were, in fact, supporting his rival Garcia for the post.

"My name is on that list of Speaker De Venecia, but I am supporting Pabling (Garcia) as speaker. How come? It's because De Venecia asked us to support a House legislative agenda, but later on said this was an expression of support for his speakership bid," Bagatsing said.

More candid

"Joe should have been more candid by asking us to directly support his speakership bid, instead of resorting to this," he said.

Bagatsing said De Venecia's claim that he already had "the numbers" was empty, citing the observation of San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora that at present, no candidate for the speakership can claim to have the support of majority of congressmen.

"Garcia was more forthright when he said he didn't have the numbers yet, but that he will have them during the voting for the post of Speaker," Bagatsing said.

Jobless rate falls to 7.4%

From page A1

and jobs generation posted by the economy to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In a memo to the President, Neri said 1.007 million new jobs were created as of April from a year-ago, slightly surpassing the government's target of generating one million jobs a year.

Neri said the drop in unemployment was an indication that the benefits of high economic growth were starting to trickle down to the mass of Filipinos.

He said the government's long-term target was to grow the economy by at least 7 percent every year, as this was the level of growth required to produce the jobs needed to reduce poverty.

92.6% employment rate

Growth in GDP—the total of goods and services produced in a given period—requires a significant amount of labor which would then result in a drop in the unemployment rate.

With the unemployment rate settling at 7.4 percent, the employment rate stands at 92.6 percent, which translates to 33.7 million Filipinos with jobs, said Dennis Arroyo, the Neda director for policy and planning.

Neri said the improvement in the employment figures could be attributed to the moderate expansion in agriculture and the brisk performance of services.

Growth in employment was led by the agriculture sector (5.2 percent) and the services sector (2.7 percent) from the year-ago level.

"The services sector acts as a catch basin for informal employment as seen from the positive net employment generation posted by most of its subsectors. ...The sector was able to attract wage and salaried work in all of its subsectors," he said.

Agri sector

"The agriculture sector improved to 583,000 net employment as the sector rebounded from the damage brought about by the powerful typhoons like Reming and Milenyo last year and the lingering effect of El Niño in the previous quarter," Neri said.

The services sector had a net employment creation contribution of 431,000 during the survey period, the Neda said.

The NSO report said that of the total employed Filipinos, almost half, or 49.3 percent, worked in the services sector, 35.2 percent in agriculture and 15.6 percent worked in the industry sector.

Despite the improved jobless rate figures, however, 18.9 percent, or 6.37 million Filipinos, were underemployed, or "want or desire additional hours of work," the NSO said.

By the NSO's definition, underemployed persons are those who have jobs but want or desire additional work hours.

The NSO said 48.3 percent of the underemployed were in the agriculture sector, 35.2 percent in the services sector and 16.5 percent in the services sector. Most, or 65.3 percent of the unemployed, were working less than 40 hours a week, the NSO said.

Unpaid family workers

By region, a double-digit unemployment rate was again recorded only in the National Capital Region (NCR) at 12.5 percent and Central Luzon at 10.2 percent, continuing the easing trend of regional unemployment, the NSO reported.

Filipinos remained employed in more remunerative and stable work as wage and salary workers, now comprising 51.1 percent of total workers, increased by 678,000, or 4.1 percent, in April compared to a year-ago.

However, unpaid family workers went up by 13.5 percent, totaling 524,000, while own-account workers slipped by 1.6 percent, for a total of 0.195 million workers.

"Now that we have begun reducing our unemployment and underemployment rates, what we need to do next is to make sure this is sustained," Arroyo said.

Tourism promotion

Neri said the government must sustain this performance, and look at the bottlenecks to decent work and full employment and implement job creation interventions.

"If the regional unemployment improvement observed in the last two [labor force survey] rounds is sustained, there will be a dramatic reduction of poverty in the countryside," he said.

The Neda has been pushing for the promotion of tourism to generate more jobs. It supports the liberalization of air transportation and the shipping sector to allow more foreign carriers to bring in more passengers and to reduce the cost of transporting goods.

'FINE CHILD'

Girl, 5, saves 2 younger kids from fire

By Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—A 5-YEAR-OLD GIRL SHOWED courage and presence of mind when she saved her brother and a cousin from a burning house in Barangay Guadalupe here on Thursday.

On the same day, another fire broke out in Barangay Day-as, Cebu City, killing a 43-year-old polio victim.

The girl, Chevaune Julbe, arrived from school and went to the house of her 3-year-old cousin Stefan Ramirez to look for her 4-year-old brother, Nathaniel.

Julbe told reporters that she found the two boys playing with matches near the curtains which then caught fire.

She immediately took Nathaniel and Stefan out of the house. All three were unharmed. Unfortunately, the Ramirez house was destroyed.

Cebu City officials praised Julbe for her quick thinking.

Mayor Tomas Osmeña, in a press conference yesterday, commended the girl's parents for raising a "fine child."

Heroism

Cebu City Councilor Gerardo Carillo, chairman of the committee on social services, said he would sponsor a resolution commending the heroism of the young girl during the Sangguniang Bayan session on Wednesday.

Carillo said the city might also help finance Julbe's education.

Cebu City fire investigator SFO2 Allih-Kasem Espinola said the fire was declared under control after two minutes and damages were pegged at P15,000.

In Barangay Day-as, a polio victim identified as Raul "Rolly" Tura died in a fire which broke out at 3:25 p.m. also on Thursday.

Espinola said the fire started in the house of Edwin and Rolando Miñoza and immediately spread to the neighboring houses, including the house of Tura.

Tura was alone when the fire broke out because his siblings were at work.

At least eight houses were destroyed and a chapel was partially damaged.

Espinola said they had the fire under control after 22 minutes and damages were pegged at P750,000.

He said they had yet to determine the cause of the fire, adding that it probably started in the ceiling of the house.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, June 16, 2007
Immaculate Heart of Mary

1st Reading:	Is 61:9-11
Gospel:	Luke 2:41-51

Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover, as was customary. And when Jesus was 12 years old, he went up with them according to the custom for this feast. After the festival was over, they returned, but the boy Jesus remained in Jerusalem and his parents did not know it.

They thought he was in the company and after walking the whole day they looked for him among their relatives and friends. As they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem searching for him, and on the third day they found him in the Temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking questions. And all the people were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

His parents were very surprised when they saw him and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I were very worried while searching for you." Then he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Do you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand this answer.

Jesus went down with them, returning to Nazareth, and he continued to be subject to them. As for his mother, she kept all these things in her heart.

Commentary

Isaiah's words proclaim Jesus, and all those who believe in the Word of the Lord—giving all of our souls reason to rejoice and exult in the goodness and justice of God. We are clothed with the robe of righteousness (baptismal garment) and we are all called as the nation (Church/Kingdom) to be the cause of justice for all nations. The people of God in every generation has sung the praises of God—Isaiah, Hannah, Mary—and so, must each of us who have accepted the Word of the Lord into our lives.

Mary, with all believers, had to learn the wisdom of God in her child, Jesus. And even after 12 years with Jesus, she still does not know that he is not her child first, but he is the child of God the Father/Yahweh the Holy One. She had to 'keep all these things in her heart/memory, pondering the Word.' The gospel begins after this line and this is the image of the heart of Mary—pondering always the Word of her child and seeking to understand the wisdom and goodness of God ever more profoundly.

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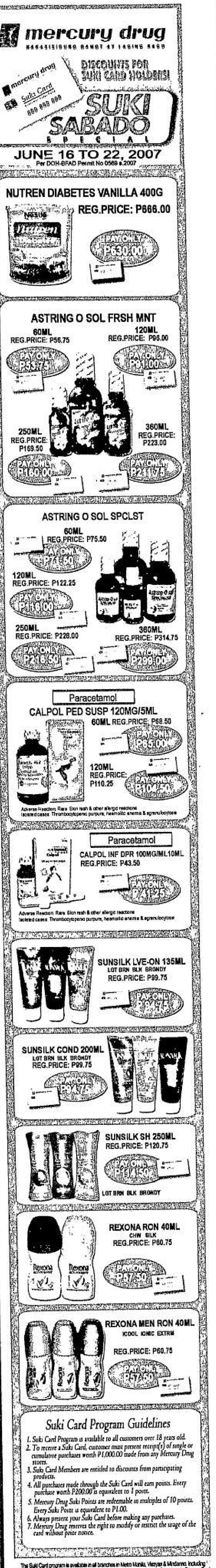
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General raises caution in efforts to rescue priest

By Julie S. Alipala, Jeffrey Maitem and Charlie Señase
Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A MARINE GENERAL warned on Thursday that a 15-man armed group, holding Italian priest Giancarlo Bossi hostage, might execute their captive if the government would not be careful in its actions.

"It's difficult. We can't read their minds. They might hurt or kill their captive," said Marine Maj. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino, chief of the military's National Capital Region Command.

Dolorfino is involved in the operation to secure Bossi's freedom as chair of the Ad Hoc Joint Action Group (Ahjag), the antiterror and anticrime body the government formed with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

He said the search for the Italian priest, who was kidnapped Sunday in Payao, Zamboanga Sibugay, remains fruitless to this day and the kidnappers have not made known their demands.

The Bossi family in Abbiategrasso, Italy is taking the news very calmly according to sources contacted by the INQUIRER.

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"I am not afraid, because my brother can eat in a Christian's house as well as in a Muslim's house," Carlucci quoted Giuseppina's e-mail to him.

But Gianni Battista Sandalo, the Philippine superior of the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions, the order to which Bossi belongs, admitted they were getting anxious.

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"It seems we have lost our strength. The world appeared to have stopped. We could not move," Mary Anne Martinez, 37, secretary of the St. Paul parish's Zone Fatima, said.

Martinez recalled that this happened before when Bossi left Payao for about 10 years when the priest was assigned to another area.

Joyce Abduhan, Payao budget officer, said that it was only when Bossi returned in April that everybody became involved in church-work again.

Abduhan said that Bossi did not mind threats to his security.

"We kept on reminding him that Italian people are favorites of kidnappers but he simply laughed off our advice. He kept on saying that he has not committed any offense," she said.

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"We already know them but we cannot divulge their identities," he told the INQUIRER yesterday.

But he said some of Bossi's kidnappers have relatives in the MILF. *With Reuters report*

No bribes, vows new czar vs smuggling

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

A NEWLY CREATED Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group yesterday vowed not to accept protection money or bribes from smuggling syndicates in its campaign against smuggling.

PASG chief Antonio "Bebot" Villar Jr. said any of his personnel who will violate his "no take policy" would be punished.

He also warned his personnel that he would file charges against those who will use his name or the PASG for their "personal and illegal operations."

Villar made a second promise: no sacred cows in the fight against rampant smuggling in the country.

"There will be no sacred cows in our operations against smuggling syndicates that are robbing the government billions of pesos," Villar said in a Palace statement.

"There will be no favors granted to anyone in the anti-smuggling campaign of the PASG," Villar added.

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Office of the Corporate Secretary

PAGCOR raises the bar yet again

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is riding high on the latest in its record-breaking streak. Last month, the state-owned gaming firm raked in an impressive P2.05 billion monthly income which easily surpassed its previous record set in August 2006.

However, this is certainly nothing new for the corporation, which has been aggressively and consistently building up its revenues year after year. Based on its latest unaudited financial report, the state-run gaming firm posted an unprecedented P25.4 billion in revenues last year.

Under the management of its present Board, headed by Chairman and CEO Efraim C. Genuino, PAGCOR has earned respectability as one of the most well-run government institutions in the country today as well as among the most transparent and successful casino operators worldwide.

Through strong leadership and the introduction of stringent cost-cutting measures as well as innovative marketing strategies, the current PAGCOR management has been able to fully maximize the income generating capabilities of the corporation. With a united Board, a motivated workforce and well-placed infrastructure for growth, there is no way for PAGCOR to miss its targets.

In fact, PAGCOR's 2005 total annual income of P23.4 billion was 6.8 percent higher than the P21.9 billion it posted the year before.

Of all the legally-mandated beneficiaries of PAGCOR, the National Government is the biggest winner of all. In 2005, a total of P11.95 billion was remitted to the government, making PAGCOR one of the top contributors to the country's wealth.

Since Chairman Genuino took over the corporation in 2001, he has almost been able to double the revenues of the state-run gaming firm. From the previous highest record of P14.6 billion, the total annual income of PAGCOR has now grown to P25.4 billion in just six years.

Meanwhile, the low-key PAGCOR chief also fully understands that PAGCOR is mandated by law to propel the government's pro-poor programs and endeavors toward national development and so he spearheaded the highly-successful People's Government Mobile Action (PGMA) Serbisyo Muna! Project.

PGMA Serbisyo Muna project is an inter-agency program which synchronizes and coordinates various socio-civic and developmental projects aimed at making basic needs and services readily available to urban-poor communities. Now on its third year running, the project is focusing its services on the 10 Poorest Provinces in the Philippines.

"We have been directed by no less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to perform better and increase our revenues so that we may be able to help more and more Filipinos rise from poverty. And because of this, we are motivated to perform better because the bottomline is: Everything that we earn goes back to the government and, in turn, is used for the betterment of the lives of our countrymen" Chairman Genuino said.

"With such responsibility in mind, we cannot afford to lose. This is the motivation that drives each and every person in our 12,000-strong workforce," he added.

Being one of the most profitable companies in the country today, it should follow that PAGCOR employees radiate confidence and dedication for their job. This, perhaps, is the most important legacy of Chairman Genuino.

As the growth experienced by the company reflects the global upward trend in gaming and entertainment, it is vital for PAGCOR to keep pace with the dynamic changes in the industry.

Guided by the vision set by Chairman Genuino to transform state-run gaming firm into a global corporation with a global mindset and a Filipino heart, the corporation continues to reinvent itself by shifting its business to entertainment.

This, coupled with the introduction of fresh and innovative marketing strategies, has contributed greatly to the solid performance of the corporation.

Another example of Genuino's foresight is PAGCOR's proposed Entertainment City Manila which is a multi-billion dollar complex that will rise on prime reclaimed land along Roxas Boulevard.

The proposed project will offer wholesome fun, thrill and excitement for people of all ages. It will feature five-star hotels, amusement parks, educational and cultural complexes, shopping malls, a commercial district, a sports stadium, restaurants, convention halls, state-of-the-art theaters, gaming centers, race tracks, residential villages, a hospital district, and other facilities at par with international standards.

Furthermore, the recent ratification by Congress of PAGCOR's franchise extension has allowed this project to go full-speed ahead.

"Not only will the Entertainment City provide much-needed revenues to the government through the infusion of foreign investments, but more importantly, thousands of jobs will be created for Filipinos," Chairman Genuino explained.

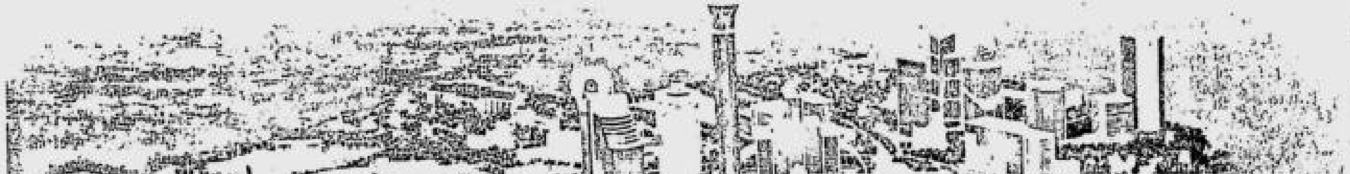
To preview what the Entertainment City will offer and to demonstrate fully its thrust to develop the entertainment aspect of its business, PAGCOR gets set to launch a stage production which aims to put the Philippines on the world map as a premier entertainment destination.

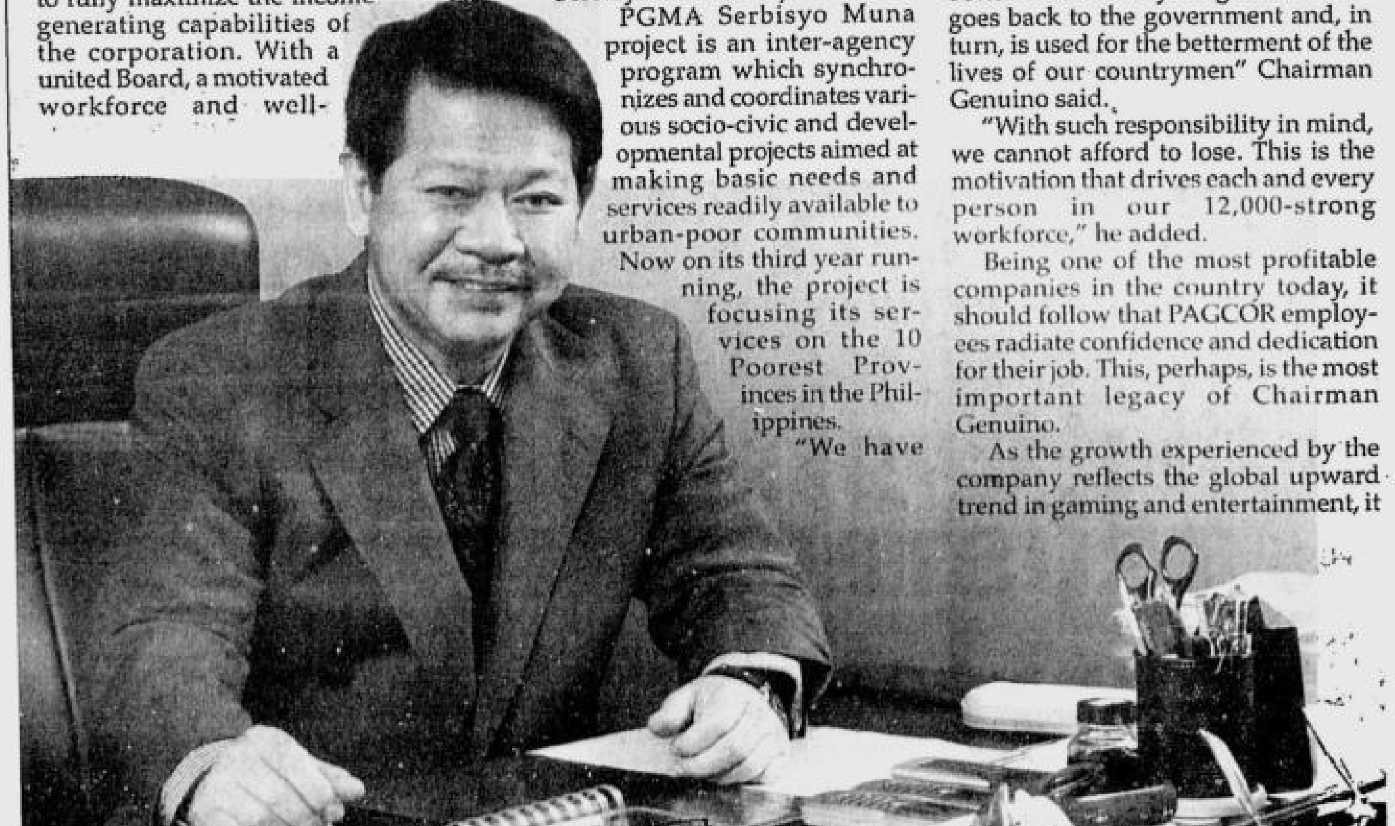
The show, dubbed "Wanders," is an ingenious combination of elements from Cirque du Soleil, Broadway, Las Vegas showcases, and Pinoy entertainment. It will feature the country's best local talents as well as international performers from Russia and China. It will make its debut at the newly-renovated PAGCOR Grand Theater at Airport Casino in Parañaque.

With all these achievements already under his belt, the Chairman remains unconvinced the company is well on its way towards his vision of being a global corporation. While everything seems to be coming up rosy, PAGCOR's top-honcho believes nothing should hinder the company from finding other innovative ways to improve further.

"This is only the beginning for PAGCOR. We have only taken one giant step towards our aim of making it a global corporation. If we want to go the distance, it requires more than a hundred giant steps. So as you can see, we have a long way to go. It's now time to work on the second giant step," he enthused.

An act difficult to follow best describes Chairman Genuino and his ongoing stint in PAGCOR. The government is truly lucky to have him aboard its ship.


The proposed Entertainment City Manila


PAGCOR Chairman and CEO Efraim C. Genuino

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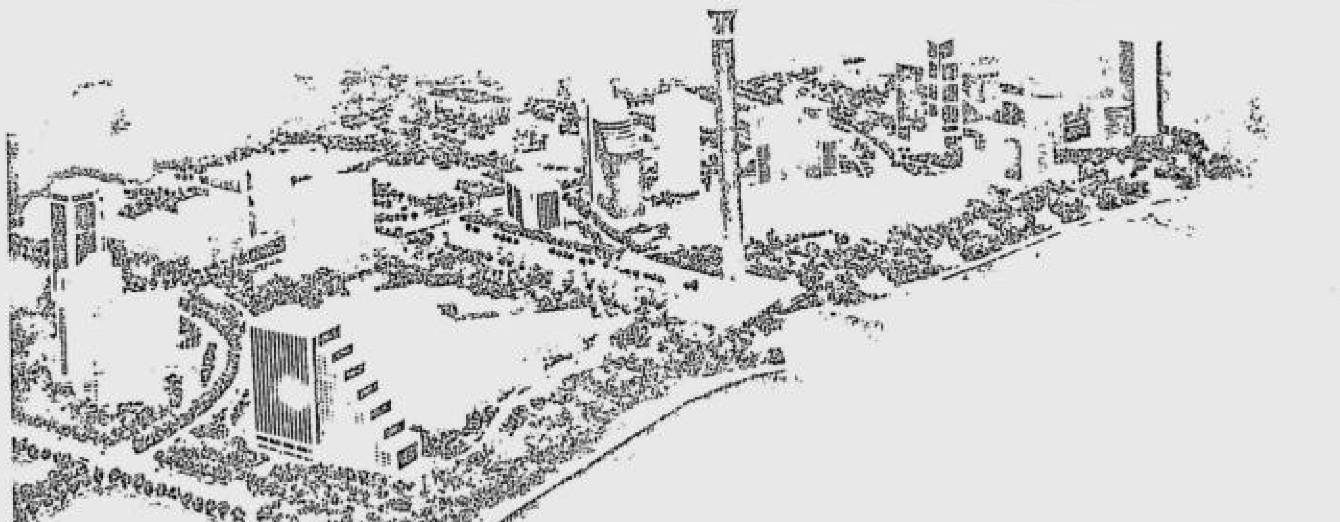
Office of the Corporate Secretary

PAGCOR raises the bar yet again



The proposed Entertainment City Manila

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is riding high on the latest in its record-breaking streak. Last month, the state-owned gaming firm raked in an impressive P2.05 billion monthly income which easily surpassed its previous record set in August 2006.

However, this is certainly nothing new for the corporation, which has been aggressively and consistently building up its revenues year after year. Based on its latest unaudited financial report, the state-run gaming firm posted an unprecedented P25.4 billion in revenues last year.

Under the management of its present Board, headed by Chairman and CEO Efraim C. Genuino, PAGCOR has earned respectability as one of the most well-run government institutions in the country today as well as among the most transparent and successful casino operators worldwide.

Through strong leadership and the introduction of stringent cost-cutting measures as well as innovative marketing strategies, the current PAGCOR management has been able to fully maximize the income generating capabilities of the corporation. With a united Board, a motivated workforce and well-placed infrastructure for growth, there is no way for PAGCOR to miss its targets.

In fact, PAGCOR's 2005 total annual income of P23.4 billion was 6.8 percent higher than the P21.9 billion it posted the year before.

Of all the legally-mandated beneficiaries of PAGCOR, the National Government is the biggest winner of all. In 2005, a total of P11.95 billion was remitted to the government, making PAGCOR one of the top contributors to the country's wealth.

Since Chairman Genuino took over the corporation in 2001, he has almost been able to double the revenues of the state-run gaming firm. From the previous highest record of P14.6 billion, the total annual income of PAGCOR has now grown to P25.4 billion in just six years.

Meanwhile, the low-key PAGCOR chief also fully understands that PAGCOR is mandated by law to propel the government's pro-poor programs and endeavors toward national development and so he spearheaded the highly-successful People's Government Mobile Action (PGMA) Serbisyo Muna! Project.

PGMA Serbisyo Muna project is an inter-agency program which synchronizes and coordinates various socio-civic and developmental projects aimed at making basic needs and services readily available to urban-poor communities. Now on its third year running, the project is focusing its services on the 10 Poorest Provinces in the Philippines.

"We have been directed by no less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to perform better and increase our revenues so that we may be able to help more and more Filipinos rise from poverty. And because of this, we are motivated to perform better because the bottomline is: Everything that we earn goes back to the government and, in turn, is used for the betterment of the lives of our countrymen" Chairman Genuino said.

"With such responsibility in mind, we cannot afford to lose. This is the motivation that drives each and every person in our 12,000-strong workforce," he added.

Being one of the most profitable companies in the country today, it should follow that PAGCOR employees radiate confidence and dedication for their job. This, perhaps, is the most important legacy of Chairman Genuino.

As the growth experienced by the company reflects the global upward trend in gaming and entertainment, it is vital for PAGCOR to keep pace with the dynamic changes in the industry.

Guided by the vision set by Chairman Genuino to transform state-run gaming firm into a global corporation with a global mindset and a Filipino heart, the corporation continues to reinvent itself by shifting its business to entertainment.

This, coupled with the introduction of fresh and innovative marketing strategies, has contributed greatly to the solid performance of the corporation.

Another example of Genuino's foresight is PAGCOR's proposed Entertainment City Manila which is a multi-billion dollar complex that will rise on prime reclaimed land along Roxas Boulevard.

The proposed project will offer wholesome fun, thrill and excitement for people of all ages. It will feature five-star hotels, amusement parks, educational and cultural complexes, shopping malls, a commercial district, a sports stadium, restaurants, convention halls, state-of-the-art theaters, gaming centers, race tracks, residential villages, a hospital district, and other facilities at par with international standards.

Furthermore, the recent ratification by Congress of PAGCOR's franchise extension has allowed this project to go full-speed ahead.

"Not only will the Entertainment City provide much-needed revenues to the government through the infusion of foreign investments, but more importantly, thousands of jobs will be created for Filipinos," Chairman Genuino explained.

To preview what the Entertainment City will offer and to demonstrate fully its thrust to develop the entertainment aspect of its business, PAGCOR gets set to launch a stage production which aims to put the Philippines on the world map as a premier entertainment destination.

The show, dubbed "Wanders," is an ingenious combination of elements from Cirque du Soleil, Broadway, Las Vegas showcases, and Pinoy entertainment. It will feature the country's best local talents as well as international performers from Russia and China. It will make its debut at the newly-renovated PAGCOR Grand Theater at Airport Casino in Parañaque.

With all these achievements already under his belt, the Chairman remains unconvinced the company is well on its way towards his vision of being a global corporation. While everything seems to be coming up rosy, PAGCOR's top-honcho believes nothing should hinder the company from finding other innovative ways to improve further.

"This is only the beginning for PAGCOR. We have only taken one giant step towards our aim of making it a global corporation. If we want to go the distance, it requires more than a hundred giant steps. So as you can see, we have a long way to go. It's now time to work on the second giant step," he enthused.

An act difficult to follow best describes Chairman Genuino and his ongoing stint in PAGCOR. The government is truly lucky to have him aboard its ship.

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

Quake jolts landslide-hit Leyte town

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—AN EARTHQUAKE WITH a magnitude of 5 jolted Thursday night the town of St. Bernard in Southern Leyte, where a massive landslide killed more than 1,000 people last year, but no casualties or damage were reported, officials said Friday.

Bobby Canete of the Philippine Volcanology and Seismology stationed in Palo town, Leyte, said that based on their monitoring, the tremor occurred at 10:49 p.m. on Thursday with a magnitude of 5 and was located 41 kilometers northeast of Maasin City with a depth of 14 km.

The Philippine Fault Zone Leyte Segment was said to be the source of the tremor.

But the US Geological Survey measured the magnitude of the quake as 5.6. It was not immediately clear why there was a discrepancy.

The tremor, which lasted less than five seconds, registered intensity 6 in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte, sending its residents hurrying from their beds.

It was also felt in Tacloban City at intensity 2; Palo, 2; Cebu City, 2; and Surigao City, 3.

Almost the entire Barangay Guisaugon in St. Bernard was buried by the Feb. 17, 2006 landslide, said to have occurred after an earthquake, which killed over a thousand people, including more than 200 school children.

Wary of aftershocks, hundreds waited in open fields before returning home, said Salvador Estudillo, the regional director of the Office of Civil Defense.

"The people there suffer from a bit of trauma, so they all left their homes when the earthquake struck," Estudillo said. "But so far we have no reports of casualties or damage."

Lt. Col. Mario Lacurom, commanding officer of the 43rd Infantry Battalion based in Southern Leyte, said that based on their monitoring, there was no destruction caused by the tremor.

"But we were informed by the chief of police of St. Bernard that cracks were observed in some portions of the mountain in Guinsaugon," Lacurom, reached on his mobile phone, said.

Rey Gozon, administrative officer of the OCD-8, also made the same report saying that cracks in some parts of Mt. Can-abag was observed, possibly due to the tremor. "We have yet to verify this information though," he said.

In the February 2007 landslide, the side of the mountain cascaded down onto Guinsaugon village. Guinsaugon was never rebuilt, but people continued to live near the site.

With AP report

Palace reason for rapist-solon's clemency won't wash with CBCP

By Jerome Aning

THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE OF Philippines yesterday described as "shallow" Malacañang's reason that the commutation of convicted child-rapist Romeo Jalosjos' double-life sentence would decongest the country's penitentiary.

"It can be a reason, but it's very shallow. And there is only one (whose sentence is being) commuted," Palawan bishop and CBCP Commission on Pastoral Prison Care chair Pedro Arigo said in an interview over Catholic Church-owned Radio Veritas.

Arigo said his commission would want to be assured that Jalosjos, before release, has been truly and fully rehabilitated.

"We want to see to it that his, shall we say, criminal mind and criminal tendencies have been cured and that if he returns to the society he would not become again a threat or danger to the community," Arigo added.

In the United States, people are informed if there are pardoned or paroled child rapists or molesters living in their communities.

Arigo said that even if Jalosjos were to be released due to his old age and for humanitarian considerations, the restitutions for the victim—such as civil and moral damages—as provided by penal laws must be ensured.

More importantly, the bishop said, is the need to assure "restorative justice," which is being promoted by the Church.

"This is a paradigm shift different from retributive justice, in such a way that there would be a link between the offender and offended. It's a long process, not just forgiving the sinner but the repair of the damage done," he explained.

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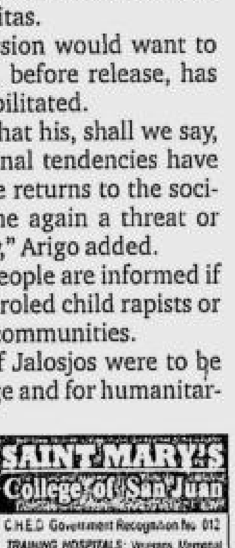
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Erap sees acquittal; verdict out in 90 days

From page A1

of irritation in the presence of his tormentors led by Villa-Ignacio. The two of them were seen shaking hands twice and whispering to one another.

When interviewed later, Estrada said he just told Villa-Ignacio that "You were just doing your job."

Villa-Ignacio said he told Estrada that "finally, it's all over and we can now all take a rest."

Presiding Justice Teresita Leonardo de Castro said the court "learned a lot" from the proceedings, the first oral summation to be held in the Sandiganbayan's 29-year-history.

The three-member bench also included Justices Diosdado Peralta and Francisco Villaruz.

Much of the closing arguments again put to the test the credibility of the man who started it all: Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, the Estrada crony who blew the whistle on the ousted leader's alleged illegal gambling payola network.

While seen as a hero in the 2001 Edsa People Power revolt that toppled Estrada from power, Singson has since been painted by the Estrada camp as a corrupt politician with his own illegal gambling racket to protect.

In the trial, the defense maintained that Singson turned against Estrada when the latter approved the introduction of state-sanctioned Bingo-2 Ball to eradicate "*jueteng*" and gave the "Bingo" franchise to Singson's "political enemies" in Ilocos Sur.

500 prosecution documents

But Villa-Ignacio yesterday argued Singson's motive in testifying against Estrada was "immaterial" so long as his allegations were proven through corroborative testimony and some "500 documents"—such as bank records, "over which Singson has no control."

Villa-Ignacio conceded Singson's testimony had some inconsistencies, as noted by the defense, like the wrong addition of the entries in the infamous "ledger" of Estrada's alleged *jueteng* payola.

But those "inconsistencies are insignificant in the light of the thousands of details" provided by Singson, and "would even bolster (his) credibility, for it means his testimonies were honest and unrehearsed," the prosecutor said.

For defense lawyer Estelito Mendoza, if there was anyone who amassed *jueteng* money during Estrada's short-lived presidency, it was only Singson himself.

Remember, Mendoza said, it was Singson who admitted being a "collector, but the problem was that he was not accused as a conspirator" in the plunder case.

'Manufactured ledger'

This, he said, was a "glaring act of discrimination, and the prosecution must pay for that."

As to the supposed "ledger," Mendoza cited signs that Singson merely "manufactured" it just to link Estrada to *jueteng*.

Jueteng bettors are known to bet even small change, yet how come the ledger entries representing collected jueteng "bets" per month were always rounded-off? The ledger also showed that for several months in succession, the amounts collected were exactly the same.

As to the charge that Estrada received P130-million from tobacco excise taxes as "delivered" by Singson, Mendoza countered that it was Singson—not Estrada—who authorized the withdrawal of that amount from the LandBank.

FLASHING HIS MOVIE STAR SMILE, the accused waves to the crowd as he arrives at the Sandiganbayan in Quezon City to hear the final summations of the defense and the prosecution on the plunder charges filed against him.

JOAN BONDOC

Estrada's only "link" to the money was his signed marginal note on Singson's letter to then Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno, which requested the immediate release to his province of P200 million from the tax revenues, Mendoza said.

Marginal notes requesting speedy action on the request are "routine" in Malacañang, he said.

Mendoza said Singson merely quoted another co-accused, Charlie "Atong" Ang, as saying Estrada wanted a cut from the freshly released funds.

Onus on Singson

It is Singson who should be criminally charged, Mendoza added, for falsifying documents showing that the P130 million went to flue-curing and tobacco drying facilities in his province.

His scheme was "to steal money, the bigger the better, and then, when discovered, blame it on the President," the lawyer said. "Prosecution could easily send him to jail."

In his summation, Villa-Ignacio said "damning evidence" left unexplained by Estrada included an P8 million check from Singson that ended up in Estrada's conjugal account with wife Loi Ejercito.

Another check for P1.2 million, also from Singson, went to the account of Estrada's mistress, former starlet Laarni Enriquez, he said.

'Jose Velarde'

Villa-Ignacio recalled that Estrada's main defense in signing as "Jose Velarde" in connection with a P3.2-billion Equitable-PCI bank account was that he supposedly had an "internal arrangement" with the real owner of the account, co-accused Jaime Dichaves.

The defense presented no other witnesses other than Estrada to support such a claim, he said.

"Strangely, no one else has since claimed ownership of the Jose Velarde account," he said.

Villa-Ignacio said the prosecution was also able to show that Estrada "pestered" the then heads of the Government Service and Insurance System and the Social Security System, into buying shares of Belle Corp., a transaction which allegedly earned him P189 million in commissions.

That the transaction was "regular or valid" was beside the point, he said, adding that "there was no dispute" that the P189 million went to the Velarde account.

Prosecutor Raymuno Julio Olaguer summed up the lesser charge of perjury, which alleged that the ex-President lied in his Dec. 31, 1998 Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth.

Estrada declared his cash in hand and bank to be only P5.03 million, but accounts discovered to be under his name in three banks in his hometown San Juan—Security, Keppel and Asia United—contained up to P114.2 million, Olaguer said.

'Secret' companies

Estrada's SALN only listed his interests in three companies, JELP Real Estate & Devt. Corp., JE Inc. and Felvisa Dev't Corp., but the prosecution traced nine more, Olaguer said, namely:

First LPL Land Syndication Inc., Asis Ejercito Garments Inc., 24K International Food Inc., Alpha Funds Inc., Primetime Entertainment for Television Inc., ADE Food Inc., Electronic Security Systems Inc., All Hot Soup Inc. and FELT Food Services.

Olaguer said Estrada's defense that these companies were already inactive could not hold, for they still "existed" during the period covered by the SALN.

Plunderwatch ...

From page A1

"Plunderwatch has long given up on the plunder trial. The prosecution doesn't want us to help them," Araullo said.

She added: "If President Estrada will be convicted, it should not be by this administration because it doesn't have the moral ascendancy."

Araullo was accompanied by Bayan Muna secretary general Nathaniel Santiago to the hearing.

The militants and the Estrada-led Genuine Opposition had formed an anti-fraud partnership during the recent mid-term elections to prevent poll cheating.

"The trial is only for political expediency," Araullo said. "I don't believe it will be expedient for the Arroyo administration to have a conviction (of Estrada) at this time."

Premier accuser no show

Estrada's premier accuser, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, didn't bother to show up at the proceedings. Neither did Estrada's usual raucous crowd of loyalists, although yesterday was one of the biggest days in the six-year trial.

Outside the courthouse, a small unit of antiriot troops dumped their truncheons on the sidewalk, having not a single head to bash.

The 70-year-old Estrada looked dapper despite his age, with his neatly slicked back hair, cream *barong tagalog* and dark pants. But his trademark presidential wristband that he refuses to part with didn't show when he waved to reporters and supporters packed in the courtroom.

Estrada came into the court accompanied not only by his family but by a battery of high-powered lawyers.

Almost sleepy

Security was as tight as whenever Estrada attends the proceedings.

But except for court employees and Ombudsman staff members, there was little sign of the common folk that make up the defendant's vaunted political base.

Estrada listened intently to the arguments even as some people in the audience struggled not to fall asleep because of the length of the oral arguments.

The former President kept a poker-face as Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio denounced him for being allegedly the protector of the illegal numbers game "*jueteng*" and for supposedly amassing millions from the racket.

Prosecutors said a verdict could come down around September.

"It's just a summation of the trumped up charges against me. These have all been answered by my lawyers," Estrada told the INQUIRER, referring to the prosecution's last day fulminations against him.

Who's who in gallery

The state team of Villa-Ignacio and Assistant Special Prosecutor Robert Callos was ranged against an eminent defense group that included late dictator Ferdinand Marcos's Solicitor-General Estelito Mendoza, "legal consultant" and former Chief Justice Andres Narvasa and human rights lawyer Rene Saguisag.

Mendoza also handles high-profile cases in defense of former First Lady Imelda Marcos and Chinese-Filipino tycoon Lucio Tan.

Visibly at ease, Mendoza spoke extemporaneously while cracking a joke or two to break the monotony of the proceedings. Narvasa didn't address the court. Neither did Estrada.

Estrada supporters in the gallery included United Opposition president Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, Cagayan de Oro congressman-elect Rufus Rodriguez, actor Rez Cortez and Genuine Opposition volunteer Linggoy Alcuaz.

The side of the court room where pro-Estrada spectators sat, gave muffled sighs or chuckles whenever Mendoza and Saguisag made a major point casting doubts on Estrada's guilt.

A political trial

"I'm confident that I will be acquitted. I submitted myself to the court because I believe there was no way for me to vindicate myself other than having to go through a trial after the impeachment ended abruptly," Estrada said during a break.

His son, San Juan Mayor Joseph Victor Ejercito, believed his father would be acquitted if the court was not swayed by political pressure.

"We all know it's a political trial. And all political trials are meant to convict," Ejercito said.

Also with Estrada were wife Sen. Luisa Ejercito and daughter Jackie Lopez.

During the oral arguments, Estrada nodded whenever Mendoza made a seemingly telling argument for the defense.

"The evidence the prosecution has only points to Luis 'Chavit' Singson," Mendoza said, referring to Singson's admissions that he was involved in protecting jueteng operators.

Speaking beyond his case, Estrada welcomed the election to the Senate of accused military rebel Antonio Trillanes IV, saying: "We're happy for him. It only confirms that the people believe his allegations in exposing corruption in the hierarchy of the military."

"It's not only a vindication but also a victory for the opposition," he added.

Glow of the elections

The absence of pro-Estrada demonstrators was a striking contrast to Estrada's previous court appearances when his followers would jostle for position outside the courthouse.

The Quezon City police deployed only a small crew of antiriot and intelligence personnel as well as K-9 units for standard security operations.

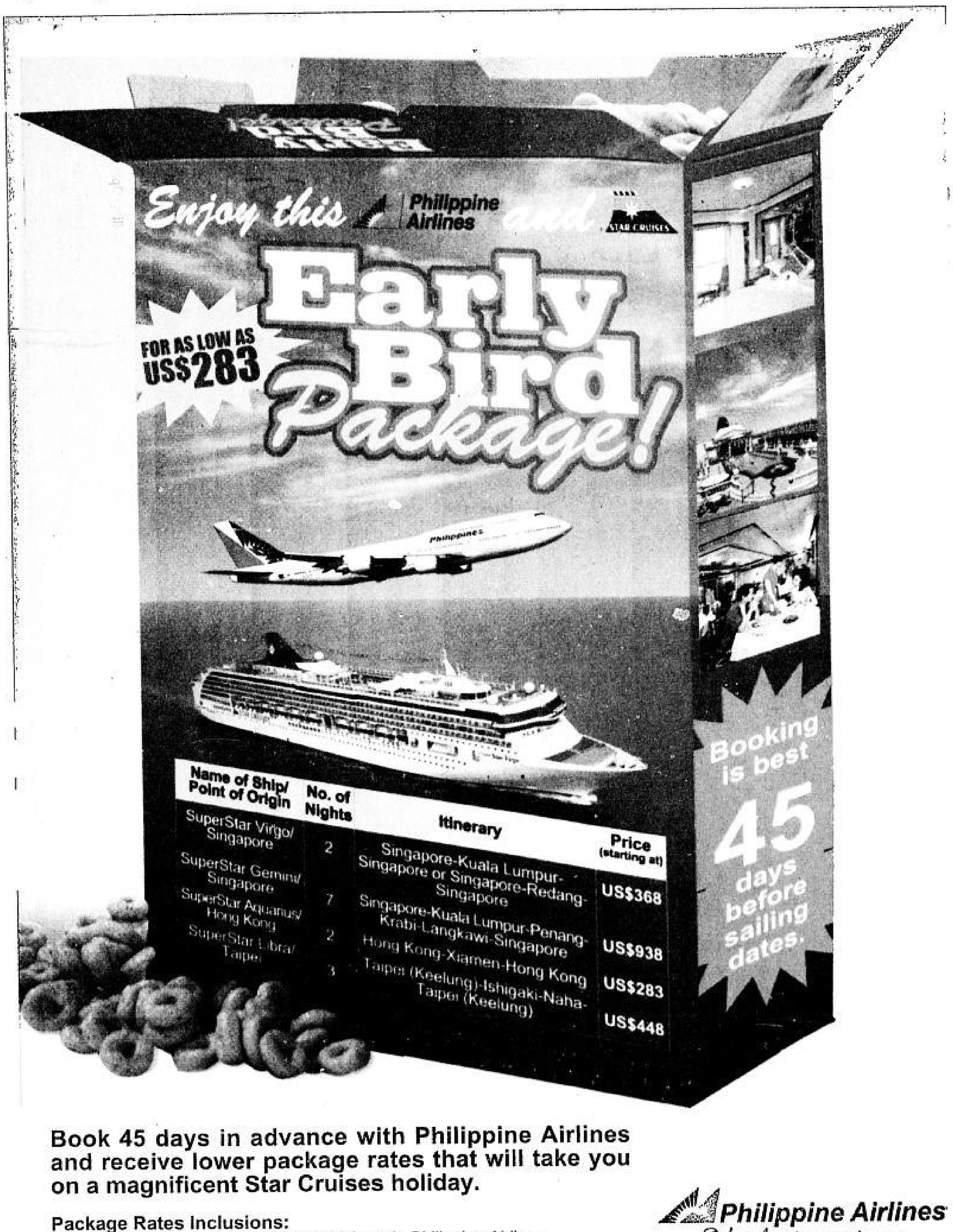
Police shields, helmets and head gear lay unused on the sidewalk.

Linggoy Alcuaz, of the Oust Gloria Coalition, downplayed the absence of demonstrators for Estrada.

"There is no rally that can do better than the May 14 elections," Alcuaz said, referring to the opposition thumping of President Macapagal-Arroyo's candidates in the senatorial polls. "We are still basking in the glow of the elections."

Alcuaz stayed less than an hour in the courthouse, before hurrying over to the proclamation of Trillanes at the Commission on Elections offices across town.

He was clad in a vest emblazoned with the name of Trillanes across the back.



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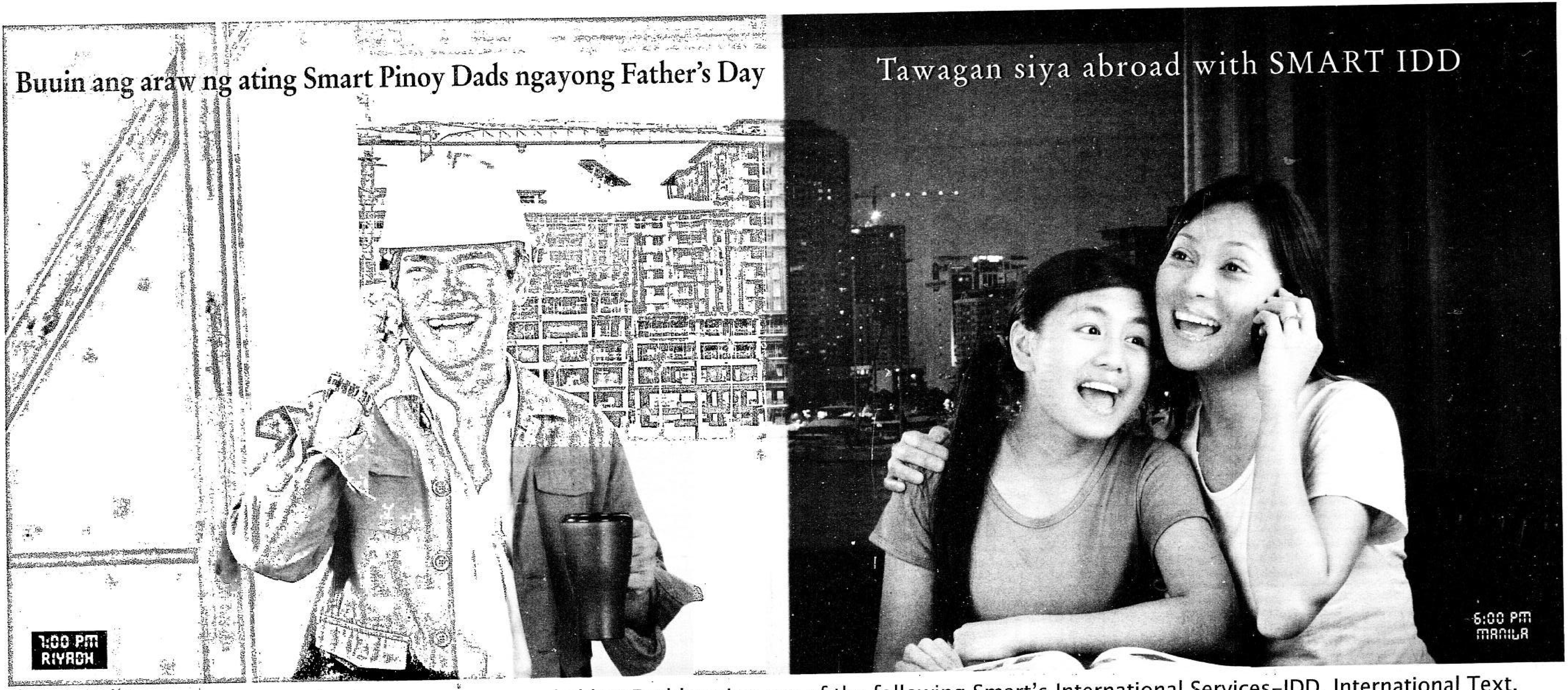
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Grudge fight

IN WHAT IS FAST DEVELOPING INTO A BITTER, bruising, no-holds-barred contest for the speakership, the Filipino people must be wondering where they figure—or if they matter at all. Loyal supporters of Speaker Jose de Venecia claim he will ensure continuity of leadership and continued support for the economic and anti-poverty programs of the Arroyo administration. Those who are pushing for Representative-elect Pablo Garcia, like Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte, say he represents "chamber change—the immediate clamor of this time"—not the Charter change that De Venecia has been actively pushing for for many years now. Such shibboleths, however, hardly provide enough light to make people see what they can expect if one or the other captures the fourth highest position in the land.

EDITORIAL

But where the fight for the speakership lacks for enlightenment, it more than makes up for it with plenty of entertainment, if one's idea of entertainment is watching old allies get at each other's throat. One Garcia ally, Leyte Representative-elect Martin Romualdez, said the Cebu congressman-elect represented "the very antithesis of the despised *trapo* or traditional politician" and his election to the speakership would "bring back respectability to the House." Garcia himself said he is "the complete opposite" of De Venecia and he has promised to "change the image of the House." Congressmen want to stop "the wheeling and dealing that demeans the House and is an affront to the dignity of each congressman," he added.

De Venecia's supporters in and outside the House have countered by accusing Garcia of buying the votes of incoming House members, and even using for the purpose money from the Government Service Insurance System, where Garcia's son, Winston, sits as president and general manager. They have raked up Garcia's record of allegedly opposing agrarian reform and flip-flopping on Charter change and questioned his physical ability at age 81 to cope with the demands of the job. They have even accused him of being stubborn and uncompromising in his positions on certain issues.

Without doubt, all the knives are out in both camps, and neither side is making any effort to hide the fact that, more than anything, this is a personal battle between the two veteran politicians. "This is war," said Garcia's daughter Gwendolyn, who is governor of Cebu, recalling alleged acts of political double-cross committed by De Venecia against members of their family. Garcia said they were dealt the "ultimate insult" during the last elections when De Venecia revoked the authority he had given to their group to have copies of the election returns as the dominant party and then threw his support behind their opponents in Cebu.

Obviously the contest for the speakership is a grudge fight—at least for the Garcias. And that makes it doubly difficult for third parties to patch things up and come up with a compromise acceptable to both. This is why Malacañang is loathe to take sides. It has been reduced to repeating that it would not interfere in the internal politics of a co-equal branch, a principle routinely violated by every administration, including this one.

Political commentators often love to repeat the cliché that in the fight for the speakership (or the Senate presidency) only one vote counts: the President's. But this time, the hands of President Macapagal-Arroyo are tied. Despite winning an overwhelming majority of the House seats, the administration can ill afford to see the coalition crumble for that would make it even more difficult to pass its legislative agenda, with a Senate that is firmly under the control of the opposition. But worse for Ms Arroyo, alienating a substantial number of allies poses an even greater peril: they could be driven to form an alliance with the opposition that might allow their combined forces to mount a serious attempt to impeach the President.

On this issue, the President has to tread very carefully. The aspirant she helps send to defeat just might bring her down with him.

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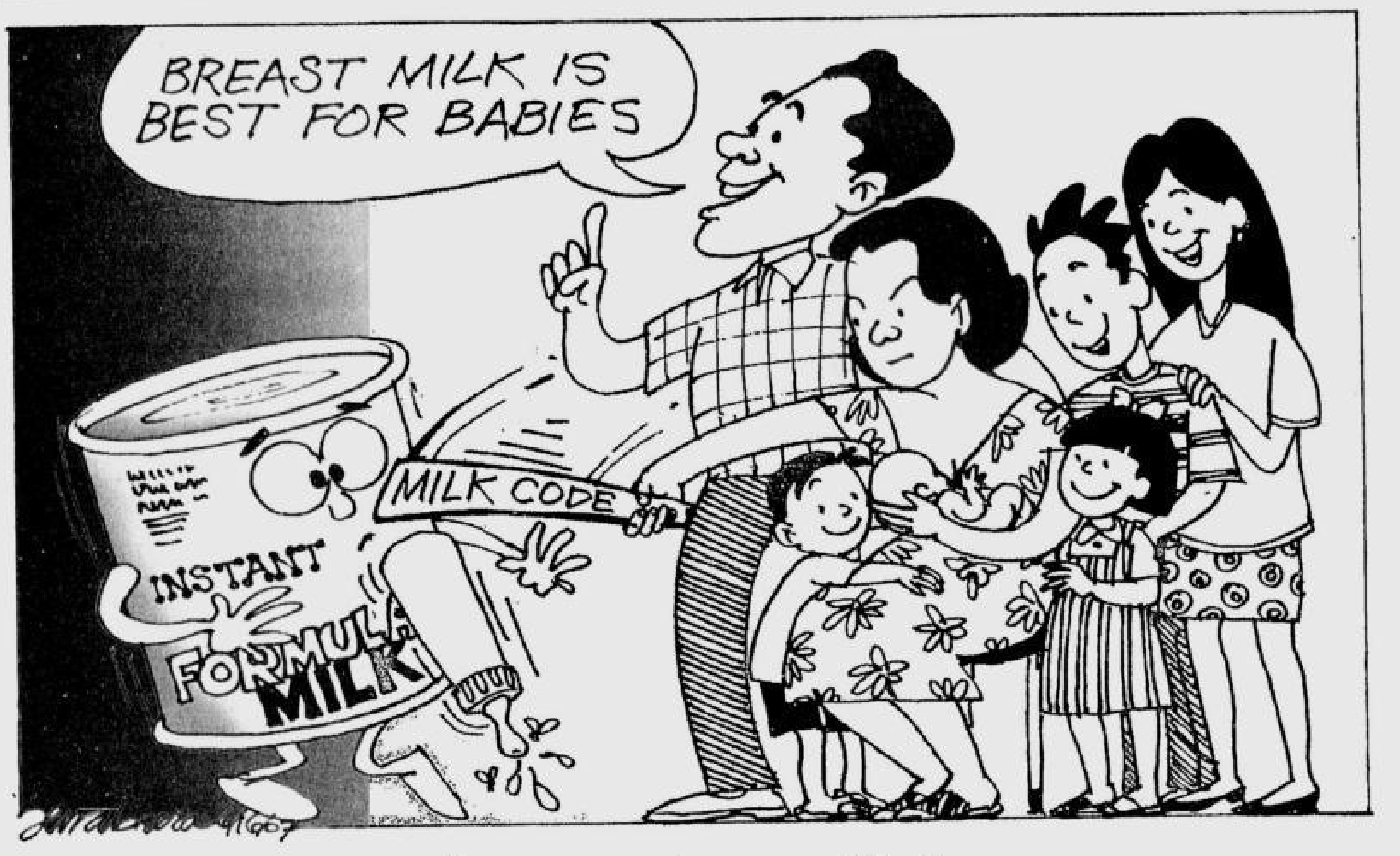

Innocent or guilty?

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

NOW THAT THE ELECTIONS ARE OVER, I hope that the plunder case against Joseph Estrada will at last be decided. It was filed as early as 2001 and underwent a number of unnecessary delays caused mostly by the defense, including some social and other non-judicial exceptions that were allowed the accused because of his former status as a widely popular President of the Philippines.

I understand that the prosecution and the defense have already submitted their respective memoranda as required by the Sandiganbayan. The oral arguments were held yesterday (which were only a rehash of the debate between the parties) after which the case will be deemed submitted for decision within the reglementary period. About time! It is not improbable that the court has already made a tentative decision and the *ponencia* has already been drafted by now.

It is fortunate that the verdict could not have been released during the recent campaign as it might have confused the political issues and possibly influenced the results of the elections. Some pundits were even predicting that the polls would be a referendum not only of President Macapagal-Arroyo but also of former President Estrada.

During the seemingly interminable trial, the accused was permitted several exceptional privileges not enjoyed by other accused persons facing similar grave or even relatively minor charges. This was done in deference to, or probably fear of, the still influential Erap whose views, mostly hostile and indignant, are regularly and prominently reported by the media. I am one of his minor targets although I once defended him in this column when the court trying him sought to limit his freedom of expression.

At one time, Estrada was allowed to visit a faith healer in Caloocan under heavy military and police security that must have cost tremendous public funds better spent for more urgent causes. Unlike other detention prisoners, he has been transferred from one confinement place to another to suit his convenience. Mercifully and with true Christian charity, he was given the opportunity to visit his ailing and beloved mother on several memorable occasions. Only recently, he was front-paged in the papers attending the wedding of one of his sons.

But all that is in the past because the trial has been terminated and all that needs to be done is for the Sandiganbayan to declare Estrada innocent or guilty of the heinous crime of plunder. There does not seem to be any plausible excuse now to further delay the rendition of the judgment that the nation has long been awaiting.

The 1973 Constitution first laid down the maximum periods for the decision of cases by the courts of justice, but the Supreme Court at the time conveniently described them as merely directory. The 1987 Constitution has reiterated the prescribed periods, viz., 24 months for the Supreme Court, 12 months for lower collegiate courts unless reduced by the Supreme Court, and three months for all other lower courts. These are now expressly described as "mandatory." Violation of the requirement is subject to disciplinary action, including impeachment if the respondent is the Supreme Court or any of its members.

In Re: Problems of Delay in Cases Before the Sandiganbayan, 370 SCRA 658, the Supreme Court held that the maximum period for decisions of the Sandiganbayan, although a lower collegiate court, is not 12 but only three months. The reason is that the Sandiganbayan, unlike the Court of Appeals, is a trial court like the other lower courts. Accordingly, the deadline for the still pending case of People v. Joseph Estrada will be sometime in the middle of August.

The old saw that justice delayed is justice denied is especially meaningful in this country where litigations have been known to drag for years and even decades before they are at long last terminated. The problem is true in both judicial and administrative cases and has caused a great deal of disenchantment among the people in the administration of justice.

The reason may be the number of civil and criminal cases that have clogged the dockets of our courts, an indication of the litigious nature of our people or, hopefully not, their criminal propensities. It could also be the indolence of the judges, many of whom are not really that overworked. Add to these the leniency of our procedural laws, or of the courts, and the strict application of the Due Process Clause with its twin requirements of notice and hearing.

Delaying a case is one way of acquitting the accused, and it is often employed by clever lawyers representing guilty clients. But this gambit can succeed only with the cooperation, often the deliberate complicity, of the judge who is well compensated for his inaction. I must make it absolutely clear, however, that this last observation does not apply, even by insinuation, to the criminal case against Joseph Estrada.

I have much respect for many of his lawyers and no ill-will for their esteemed client, who must be presumed innocent until the contrary is proved. The judgment of the Sandiganbayan in his case will be part of our nation's history.

Favila's secret letter

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

IF THE NEWSPAPER REPORT IS ACCURATE, Trade Secretary Peter Favila should be excoriated for upholding the interests of foreign pharmaceuticals (producing milk products) over the national interest—and for contributing to the continuing tragedy of at least 16,000 needless infant deaths a year.

The report stated that Representatives Risa Baraquel and Etta Rosales, in an intervention to the Supreme Court on the breast-milk-substitute marketing issue (see my column last week), claimed that Favila had written a "private communication" to Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera (representing the government/Department of Health) to caution her about the negative implications of the DOH stand on investment, employment and trade of these (foreign) companies.

It is bad enough that President Macapagal-Arroyo didn't immediately tell the president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America—one Thomas Donahue who claims long acquaintance with her—where to get off when he wrote her a letter, presumably at the behest of the pharmaceutical companies (Wyeth, Abbott, Mead Johnson), complaining about the DOH's new implementing rules and regulations of the Milk Code. Nor did she tell him that the matter was under judicial review by the Supreme Court. Instead she took the bureaucratic way out and sent it to the Department of Trade and Industry and DOH secretaries for appropriate action, instructing them to keep her posted.

It is worse that Favila took the implied threats of Donahue to heart (as well as the lobbying efforts of Wyeth, et al.)—and sent that craven and secret letter to Devanadera. Hats off to Health Secretary Francisco Duque who apparently did the job that Ms Arroyo avoided.

Let's look at the facts:

1. The Philippines approved the International Code of Marketing of Breast milk Substitutes (1981) to ensure that exclusive breast-feeding for the first six months of a baby's life (empirically established as best for its health and physical and mental development), and partial breast-feeding until 2 years of age, would not be jeopardized by the marketing of breast milk substitutes.

2. In 1986, President Cory Aquino signed an executive order, known as the "Milk Code," which essentially made the provisions of the International Code into law, with the DOH tasked with issuing the implementing rules and regulations (IRR).

3. The manufacturers/distributors of breast milk substitutes and "follow-up" milk products in the Philippines—the three above-named pharmas and Nestlé—have been in constant violation of that code, or at least the International Code on which it is based. According to the International Code Documentation Centre (ICDC) in its "State of the Code by Company 2004," "Of the three American companies, Mead Johnson's violations are worse than Abbott Ross and Wyeth. All three, however, infringe the Code in a blatant manner. Wyeth, in particular, has had a few brushes with national authorities on Code matters." Nestlé, which is not a pharmaceutical company, but reportedly controls 40 percent of the baby food market, has, according to the ICDC, the greatest number of reported violations of the key provisions of the Code.

4. The result of these "blatant violations"—all one has to do to realize how blatant is to look at the packaging on these infant-milk formulas which promise better brains and better vision (totally without basis); or the advertisements which give the parents "early learning tips" for their children (accurate), and tack on at the end a blurb which implies that drinking their milk product is part of the process (inaccurate, misleading)—is the reduction in breast-feeding rates in the Philippines and, of course, the sickness and death that occur when inappropriate infant feeding is practiced (non-breastfed children are 14 times at greater risk of dying from diarrhea and four times at greater risk of dying from pneumonia).

5. The DOH's amended IRRs are designed to put a stop to these violations—by, among others, banning advertising of infant and follow-up milk products for those below 2 years of age. But the DOH's budget for promoting breast-feeding—some P40 million—pales into insignificance with the advertising expenditures of these milk-product companies, estimated at P5 billion a year.

So who goes to the Supreme Court to fight the DOH? Not Wyeth, Abbott and Mead Johnson, which don't seem to want to contend with the DOH. Instead, they hide behind the Pharmaceutical and Health Association of the Philippines (PHAP), a business association claiming to be "Promoting and supporting continuous development through the pharmaceutical industry of ethical principles and practices." Really? Since when is violating the International Code ethical? Or false advertising? Or sponsoring personal trips of doctors? Or medical conferences and the like, which necessarily encourage a quid pro quo situation?

Abbott, Mead Johnson and Wyeth don't hesitate to use the Chamber of Commerce in their native USA in playing hard ball. And Secretary Favila seems to be the first (or second) to fall into that game.

I understand that one of the arguments the pharmas have brought to the Supreme Court to stop the DOH is that the new IRRs will cost them $128 million—$8 million involved in the removal of promotional material or repackaging, and $120 million in lost sales while they shift toward compliance. Good grief. It was they who violated in the first place—and now they snivel about what it will cost them to stop their violations?

Filipino women fight for suffrage

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

A CERTAIN SAM COSTANILLA, THE SPOKESperson of the Cebu governor, wrote the INQUIRER complaining that my recent piece on Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia was "actually a verbal assault on the Garcias of Cebu." Indeed an assault, but it was inflicted by the governor herself. My observations were merely based on her startling statements, e.g., how she ordered her mayors to shut John Osmeña out of the Magic 12 "or they have to deal with me" and how "it's total war" with Speaker Jose de Venecia for the Garcias. These statements did sound quite arrogant to many who read the INQUIRER report. Moreover, the governor herself admitted that in the 2004 presidential elections, she won by only 7,000 votes over Celestino Martinez in the three-cornered gubernatorial fight that included then Vice Gov. John John Osmeña, both of whom also supported Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. So, John Osmeña's assertion—that the Garcias did not deliver Cebu to GMA by themselves—is not mere hearsay that I chose to believe: it's based on analytical fact.

* * *

Easily one of the most impressive speakers of parliaments who came to attend the 100th anniversary of the House of Representatives last week on the invitation of Speaker De Venecia was Dr. Gholam Ali Haddad Adel of Iran. An educator and "nationalist intellectual," Dr. Adel typifies the politician-philosopher in the league of, perhaps, the Czech Republic's former president-philosopher, Dr. Vaclav Havel. Awarded by the House with the Congressional Medal of Achievement, Dr. Adel obtained his master's degree in physics in 1973; and his doctorate in philosophy and Persian literature the following year from Tehran University. Despite his militancy in the religious revolution that swept Iran in 1979, he served as deputy minister of education and head of the Academy of Persian Language and Literature. Even as he headed the Islamic Parliament, he continued to write learned commentaries on Iranian culture, compile textbooks and translate philosophical classics of world literature, for which he was awarded Iran's Book of the Year Prize in 1989.

Among the world classical works that Dr. Adel translated into Persian were the writings of renowned German philosopher Immanuel Kant, notably his masterpiece, "Critique of Pure Reason." The Iranian Speaker admitted to Speaker De Venecia, that translating Kant was such a difficult task, as the philosopher's mind was "so complex and overarching."

* * *

I've been writing about the handsome commemorative book titled "Assembly of the Nation," published by the House in connection with its 100th anniversary. It is a gold mine of historical information. I exhort readers to get their copy—but most especially the country's public schools for their students' research.

For instance, it's interesting to note that the right to suffrage was exercised by Filipino males as early as the first decade of the 20th century; it was expanded during the era of the Jones Law of 1916, under limitations that should perhaps apply to our times. Author Jeremy Barnes, in Chapter 2, titled "Fecund in Principles of Government and in Political Practices," pointed out that suffrage was extended to include every male person at least 25 years of age and a resident of the country for at least a year. But among the limiting qualifications were: they must own real property worth P500, or annually pay P30 or more of the established taxes; and must be able to read and write in the major languages at that time.

These qualifications are interesting, considering the lack of maturity exhibited by some Filipino voters over the generations, as well as the suggestions from some quarters that the right to vote ought to be limited to real property owners and taxpayers. But given the way our politicians always seek to please the *masa* during elections (even as they ignore them the rest of the time), it's doubtful if such criteria would be enforced in our time.

* * *

While the males in this country were able to vote in elections for public office as early as the first decade of the 20th century, Filipino women only began to exercise suffrage on April 30, 1937. Interestingly, there was an objection: it "would only disrupt family unity and plunge women into the quagmire of politics." (Election lawyer Romulo Macalintal noted this in a recent article.) This was vehemently denied by women leaders at that time who argued that suffrage is "a right earned, deserved and therefore claimed," and is not a "matter of sex."

* * *

The male framers of the 1935 Constitution exhibited an unmistakable touch of condescension in that they finally agreed to let the women decide if they wanted this right badly. The framers ordered a plebiscite to be held for that purpose within two years after the adoption of the Constitution, with the stipulation that "not less than 300,000 women possessing the necessary qualifications shall vote affirmatively on the question." When the plebiscite was held on April 30, 1937, more than 300,000 women turned out to vote for the first time—for women's suffrage. This right, stressed Macalintal, paved the way for women's participation in government. This year, about 50 of them were elected to the House.

President Ferdinand Marcos in 1984 issued Proclamation No. 2346, declaring April 30 each year as "Woman Suffrage Day" so that the Filipino women could renew "their advocacy and support for clean, honest and free elections and pursue with greater zeal their efforts toward this direction." In that regard, he couldn't be more right: in the recent elections, for instance, women teachers and NGO and church workers displayed such zeal in protecting the people's votes and safeguarding the elections—a few of them at the cost of their lives.

Yilmaz, Ruffa and making 'sawsaw'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

TO ALL THE AIR TIME AND COLUMN INCHES already devoted to the word war between spouses Ruffa Gutierrez and Yilmaz Bektas, let me add this little observation.

In evening newscasts the past few days, showbiz reporters have been feasting on a side issue, a side scuffle, if you will, in the bigger struggle between the Battling Bektases. This has to do with Ruffa and her mother Annabelle on one side, and INQUIRER columnist Dolly Ann Carvajal on the other. (For purposes of disclosure, Dolly Ann is a niece, but that is not why I am writing this piece. In fact, it was the reason I have held back—till now.)

In one newscast, Ruffa was shown telling off Dolly Ann not to make "*sawsaw*"—that is, not to meddle—in the very newsworthy issue between her and her estranged husband. I found this on-air telling to quite strange, if not offensive, because she had singled out a single columnist in a single newspaper for a scolding when obviously the troubled state of Ruffa's marriage has been media fodder all these weeks.

Indeed, why didn't she demand that the TV reporter or the evening news show that aired her interview not to "make *sawsaw*" either? As for the media making "*sawsaw*," wasn't the entire brouhaha instigated by Ruffa and her mother, when they announced on two separate show-biz shows that the Bektas union was about to be dissolved? Clearly, they not only invited media interest, but by giving interview after interview, they actually fanned the fires.

And Ruffa herself, who has shown no hesitancy in talking about Yilmaz and his alleged sins against her, especially on "The Buzz" where she is a co-host, is not just making "*sawsaw*" in the issue, she's clearly soaking in it! (And profiting thereby, I might add.)

* * *

LET this be a lesson to everyone who seeks media attention whether for professional or personal reasons. Once you invite the media into your life, it's too late to begin setting boundaries. I once compared the media to an elephant. Once you let that elephant's trunk through your front door, the head and the massive torso and the gigantic feet are sure to follow. And good luck to you when you try to push it out the door.

If you truly value your privacy, do not seek out the media. And do not run for public office, or set out on a career in entertainment, modeling or profitable endorsements. Neither should you pose for photographers at parties, hire a publicist, or show up in outrageous, attention-getting outfits.

The price of absolute privacy is anonymity and obscurity. True, you don't get invites to the choicest events, get the best seats or set up residence among the "A-list" celebrities. But you will have total privacy, no one will come snooping into your eating disorders or your differences with your siblings or children; you will not be hounded by paparazzi even when you're doing nothing but grocery-shopping; and no one will be trawling through your trash to look into your credit card bills or eating habits.

And in tribute to jailbird Paris Hilton: No one will be making a parody music video of your stint behind bars!

* * *

NEITHER can entertainers or celebrities pick and choose from among the media whom they will talk to or who will cover them or who will have access to them.

The media elephant is also an equal opportunity elephant. It stands for everyone who is part of the industry, even such quasi-members as bloggers and Internet rumor-mongers. Indeed, these days, as with the Gretchen Baretto-John Estrada photos, the mainstream media even take their cues from the electronic sidestream, with blogs and portals and even YouTube scooping the so-called professionals.

To my mind, the only reason the Gutierrez women have it in for Dolly Ann is that they have so far been unable to control the content of her columns. When the rest of the media—whether out of sympathy or respect or for other reasons—relied mainly on Ruffa's version of events, Dolly Ann was the first to drop hints of a possible prior marriage in Las Vegas and the real source of living of the wealthy Bektases. (Revelations which Dolly Ann sourced to e-mailed comments from readers, by the way.)

Today, events are showing that there was more than a grain of truth in Dolly Ann's revelations. And even Yilmaz, who was supposedly incensed at the "slander" against him and his family, has gone out of his way to give Dolly Ann an extended interview.

And what can I say about the other media that have been stoking the fires of discord between the Gutierrez women and our woman in "Dollywood"? Isn't it a bit hypocritical of them to be airing these continued attacks on Dolly Ann even as they score rating points digging up the dirt on the Bektas union?

* * *

LET me add at this point that while the rapid-fire exchanges between Yilmaz and Ruffa have left me confused and dazed, my inclination is still to believe Ruffa. Not because she is the "Filipino" in the dispute, but because she is a woman and that coming out with her story of abuse and oppression could not have been easy.

She has told Yes magazine that even in her worst moments, her instinct is to project a happy mien, mainly because crying about it and making a spectacle of herself won't help the situation any.

But she has also told her story in bits and pieces, and her account of the abuse she suffered at Yilmaz's hands came only after Yilmaz made it obvious he was no longer interested in preserving the marriage. One thing we know for sure: We should all brace ourselves for further developments in this rocky relationship. The revelations may have reached a point when we are actually sickened by them, but like the scene of a car crash, we just can't look away.

The Middle East's five crises

WORLD VIEW

Joris Voorhoeve

THE REGION BETWEEN EGYPT AND PAKISTAN is a cauldron of five discrete, explosive components: Iraq's civil strife, Afghanistan's insurgency, Iran's nuclear ambitions, the longstanding Israel-Arab conflict, and the risk of clashes between extremist groups and corrupt, repressive governments.

In Iraq, America's policy of building a semi-federal state of Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds runs a high risk of failure because of Shiite domination, Sunni and Shiite terrorism, Kurdish separatism and meddling by Iran. The cost in lives is already unbearably high. The United States cannot sustain the current rate of casualties (either American or Iraqi), or the expense. To create the conditions for long-term stability, a negotiated separation may be needed, comparable to the Dayton Peace Agreement that ended the war in former Yugoslavia.

Separating Iraq's populations would be painful. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the US-led coalition forces should help people who want to move to other parts of the country. One may object that to facilitate internal relocation is to collaborate with "ethnic or religious cleansing"; but the toll of prolonged war in Iraq, which could lead to its dismemberment anyway, is much worse. The principle of pluralism is valuable, but curbing bloodshed deserves priority.

A Dayton-like agreement can be achieved only if the UN Security Council backs it. It would be in the long-term interest of the permanent members to do so. Russia and China would, however, be helpful only if America changes the current Bush administration's approach.

Perhaps tripartite mediation, backed by the United States, the European Union and Russia would increase the chances. The Arab League and the Conference of Islamic States should be consulted and involved. The United States and other coalition forces would have to withdraw gradually, beginning from the south of Iraq. Foreign forces would still be needed to help protect the Sunni population west of Baghdad, and in the middle of Iraq against the Shiite south; as well as in the Kurdish north to keep Turkey from intervening.

A peaceful separation agreement would require international peacekeepers with contributions from many powers, including Islamic states. As stability in the Middle East is essential to them, this is a matter of enlightened self-interest. Iraq's neighbors that are potential spoilers would need to be restrained by a Security Council mandate for a Dayton-type settlement.

In Afghanistan, Nato-led military operations against the neo-Taliban and other opponents of state-building offer only a partial and temporary solution. The influx of insurgents from Pakistan will not stop. The population sees little improvement in living conditions and expects Western forces to leave after a few years. Most Afghans will then be ruled again by tribal leaders, Islamists, drug barons and warlords. The Western aim of building Afghanistan up as a stable and more or less democratic state is extremely ambitious; it may be wiser to help stabilize Kabul and the relatively quiet northern part of the country. The difficult south will sooner or later return to Pashtun politics.

The outside world's chief interest is to curb heroin production and destroy terrorist training camps. But destroying poppy crops has been turning Afghan farmers against Nato. So it is smarter to go after the heroin bosses and their foreign networks, and in the meantime buy the poppy crop from farmers to destroy it. Encouraging a shift to legal cash crops and food requires time and heavy investment. This will only work where there is security for the local population.

Meanwhile, international sanctions are unlikely to dissuade Iran's government from pursuing nuclear weapons, while a preventive strike by Israel—which would not sit idly by when Iranian nuclear forces become operational—or by the United States would encourage terrorist attacks against their populations.

The most promising approach might be sanctions against leading personalities, and against transfers of technology and funding, as well as covert operations. In the meantime, Iran's youthful population may become more politically active and demand democratization and improved living conditions. It is uncertain how long the old clerical leadership and the country's nationalist politicians can hold on to power; high oil and gas prices have been shielding them so far. Gaining time before a disastrous confrontation between Israel and Iran becomes inevitable would be smarter than taking an aggressive approach now.

As for Israel and its neighbors, an agreement on the Golan Heights has already been prepared, but needs external mediation and pressure if it is to be signed. State-building in Lebanon will require strong UN and European Union support, and the courage to curb Hezbollah's influence. The Israeli government and Palestinian political leaders are locked in a ruinous struggle, which merely aids extremists on both sides.

The mutual struggle will therefore continue until there is strong enough external pressure to accept a peace agreement. Israel will have to vacate a large number of Jewish settlements on Palestinian territory, and accept joint international administration or division of Jerusalem.

Israel will never agree to this unless forced by the United States, and the agreement is supported by the UN Security Council and implemented by peacekeeping troops with large contributions from many members of the UN.

Project Syndicate/Europe's World

Joris Voorhoeve, a former Dutch defense minister, is currently professor of International Organizations at Leiden University and professor of International Security Studies at the Netherlands Defense Academy.

Remembering forward

YOUNG BLOOD

Maria Angela Socorro S. Cruz

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—***Ed.**

TODAY WE ARRIVE AT A PLACE, A PLACE THAT IS THE same "as before, but differently, and better than before." Weston Jesuit School of Theology is no longer the same school we set foot upon years ago. Weston is already marked by our story, our study, our shared dreams and vision. Now, we officially become part of Weston's story, and Weston has become a part of ours. We have each been marked by Weston's "distinctive ethos"—an ethos of collaboration, affective worship, intellectual dynamism and constructive engagement with the world, an ethos that gives a new face to the challenging needs of the Church. We have all been pushed towards this great moment, this moment of thanksgiving, which is essentially a moment of remembering.

We remember the many unforgettable experiences we have shared at Weston. Ranking first on our list is the unbelievable amount of reading and writing we have done as students of theology. Out of sheer curiosity, I stayed up last night counting with my very own hands the total number of pages—no, not of our course readings, because if I did that, I would still be counting right now!—but of the writing I have done as a Master of Divinity student: 475 pages, yes, 475 pages, of double-spaced and single-spaced papers in a span of three years. Certainly, this number pales in comparison to the kind of output required of our Doctor of Sacred Theology graduates in their years of even more rigorous theological study. Still and all, I do not say this to boast of what we, theology graduate students, can do. I say this because this number is emblematic of the quality of education we receive here at Weston, an education that is intellectually engaging, thought- and tear-provoking, sometimes mind-boggling, but definitely life-changing. Committed to the mission of training us to be ministers of the Church in a broken and conflicted world, Weston has offered us a way of proceeding that is indeed collaborative, dynamic and distinctly Jesuit.

Aside from acquiring the serious discipline of reading and writing theology, we also remember those events which animated and sustained our otherwise scholarly proclivities. We remember the beautiful Wednesday liturgies, matched by appetizing repasts; the inspiring diaconal and priestly ordinations of many of our classmates; the moving ritual of lay call and sending forth; the International Student gatherings celebrating our school's cultural diversity and, of course, getting a taste of exquisite world cuisine; the Christmas parties where all our theological energies were channeled to drinking and dancing that went on beyond the confines of Washburn Hall.

We remember with thanks our benefactors, administration and staff who have been steadfast in their commitment to fulfill the mission of our school. We remember our families, communities, partners, spouses and friends who have journeyed with us through our years at Weston, especially those who have journeyed with us from afar. Our accomplishment today is a tribute to all of you who have awakened, and continue to nourish, our theological vocation, a career path that is often misunderstood by the world.

Above all, we would like to remember with profound gratitude, our beloved faculty here at Weston. These, ladies and gentlemen, these are the people responsible for much of the growth and transformation we graduates have undergone here. The amount of time they spend doing work "behind the scenes" is truly edifying. I know, because I was their official student photocopier and unofficial administrative assistant for the past three years. Having worked with them gave me a chance to see what a lot of us would not normally see. Working with them gave me a glimpse of what it means to be a true theologian: spending days, even weeks of dedicated research, silent study and prolific writing in preparation for classes, out-of-town lectures and conferences. Our Weston faculty is definitely marked by scholarly excellence, historical depth and a vigilant disposition to equip us with the necessary skill set so that we can "always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks us for a reason for our hope." (1 Peter 3:15)

Our teachers have patiently listened to the questions that brought us here in the first place—questions about our faith, about God, questions even about our selves. And because they have gone through what we have, their ability to engage our questions so well now enable us to respond to the questions of others, questions whose answers could be intelligibly articulated in words; questions with which we can only sit quietly and contemplatively because they ultimately yield wordless answers.

To our beloved professors, thank you for not simply instructing us about God. Thank you for drawing us into that space where we can grow captivated not just with the theology of God but with the God of all our theology.

However, our theological formation at Weston does not end in simply remembering the past. In looking back at the previous three years, we are also prompted to do a different kind of remembering—a remembering forward—a remembering that does not only engage our minds, but our whole selves—for with this kind of remembering comes a *necessitas*, a necessity, an accountability that cannot but take us to the faintest cry of hope heard in places forgotten by the demands of a culture of false prosperity, a duty that cannot but take us to the farthest corner of the earth hungry for the good news of our faith. We thus leave Weston with a sense of gratitude and an even stronger sense of mission that accompanies any work of theology—a responsibility that entails not just transforming, but transfiguring first our person, then our communities, and perhaps, the world.

Remembering forward allows us to embrace the newness of the Gospel, empowering us to live a faith that not only does, but loves and embodies justice—the kind that moves one to do the good no one else is doing, to proclaim the truth that no one dares proclaiming. No authentic theology, indeed, leaves us where it finds us.

Finally, remembering forward makes us realize that the gift which Weston leaves us with is a precious and potent one—it is a gift, an investment whose "return never ends, a return that leads us more fully into the life of the other while also fulfilling my own life, drawing us closer into the life of God, a life that knows no lack," a life that breathes only joy, love, justice and freedom.

Remembering forward gives us reason for our hope and recreates our person so that Weston no longer refers to just the school. Weston now has come to mean both place and people who are the same "as before, but differently, and better than before."

Maria Angela Socorro S. Cruz, 28, is a communication arts graduate of the Ateneo de Manila University. She finished her master's in theology at Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, Massachusetts and delivered the foregoing commencement address at their graduation last May 18.

After elections, it's cleanup time

WITH SNIFFLING WIVES AND GLUM children beside them, the once stellar candidates have admitted defeat. Prospero Pichay is going back to the family business. Chavit Singson will commune with his animals. Mike Defensor will become the family driver.

Excuse me, but before they and others head for the exit doors, let me remind them that they left their pathetic-looking smiles still sticking on walls and trees throughout the land. Methinks along with millions of other offended Filipinos, they all have a major cleanup to do.

Having railed against illegal political campaign posters for the past decade, we citizens actually have seen major improvements in this election. Through the first month of the campaign, Metro Manila's major thoroughfares, including Edsa and Roxas Boulevard remained "pristine" with hardly any posters to be found. Unfortunately, that wasn't the case in all other major cities and towns. Cebu? A pigsty. Baguio? A disaster. The quaint towns of Laguna? Only Pila with its penchant for cleanliness kept its heritage town sparkling for tourists.

These politicians—including congressmen, councilors, party-list candidates, the whole lot, who begged for your votes by plastering political stickers on your gates, your stores, your trees, posts, barangays and once-beautiful towns—broke the law so they could be our lawmakers.

The vow of the Comelec to go after campaign offenders has yet to materialize. So, on behalf of outraged Filipinos who want a clean Philippines, we say: Hey, Loren Legarda, self-styled environmentalist; and you, too, Mike Defensor, former environment secretary—you need to remove all your environmentally unfriendly posters from the trees now. So must you Manny Villar, Ralph Recto and Prospero Pichay; you should plant a thousand trees for each one you molested.

Before we shake Edgardo Angara's or Francis Pangilinan's or Panfilo Lacson's or any of these winners' hands, they have some wall-scraping to do. Why should the city cleaners clean the mess they made? They hired thugs to post them in the middle of the night. They should hire them again for the cleanup.

This last election proved that concerned citizens can keep the largest city in the country relatively poster-free. For the next election, let's do the same with the rest of the country—with a new set of Comelec officials who'll really uphold the law.

As for the President, with economic growth as her face-saving mantra, tell the politicians to quit being bratty and clean up. A dirty country will not bring the tourists and their much-needed dollars here.

Hey, losers and winners. A mall-based hardware store sells cheap scrapers. Buy in bulk because you've got a lot of cleaning to do.

—JOHN L. SILVA,
National Museum of the Philippines,
P. Burgos Street, Manila

'Garcia was never mean to me'—Jimeno

I READ WITH INTEREST THE COLUMN titled "Gwendolyn as Cebu's Dragon Lady," where Belinda Olivares-Cunanan mentioned my name thus: "In the Constitutional Commission, lawyer Rita Linda Jimeno burst into tears after an intense verbal tussle with him (Pablo Garcia)." (INQUIRER, 6/12/07)

Please allow me to set the record straight in the interest of truth. I did not burst into tears because of an intense verbal tussle with Congressman Garcia.

I was then chair of the committee tasked to propose amendments to the Constitution pertaining to the judicial branch of government. I, together with the members of my committee, had a number of proposals to strengthen the judiciary and make it more efficient, but a few of the ConCom members, notably former Sen. Vicente Paterno and to a certain extent, Congressman Garcia, were against my proposals. They warned me and the body that if we touched the judiciary, we could invite the ire of the Supreme Court justices, such that when the issue of Charter change reached the Supreme Court, all our work, including the most important proposals of shifting from the presidential/unitary system of government to the parliamentary/federal system and the lifting of economic restrictions, could go down the drain.

In other words, Senator Paterno and Congressman Garcia wanted to leave out and exclude my committee's proposals to reform the judiciary and to not submit them to the president as part of our final output.

I rose to speak up to express my disgust and disappointment. I said that when I accepted the task, it was with a genuine desire to contribute to the betterment of our system which would benefit all Filipinos.

After my emotional speech, several commissioners rallied behind me, which eventually led the ConCom to vote for the inclusion of my committee's proposals to reform the judiciary in the ConCom's final report. It was at this point that I could not help shedding tears, touched as I was by the show of support of the majority of my colleagues.

I write this in fairness to Congressman Garcia who was never mean to me, and with whom I shared the passion of seeing this country shift from the presidential to the parliamentary form of government.

—RITA LINDA V. JIMENO

The correct way of displaying the Philippine flag

WHENEVER I SEE THE PHILIPPINE FLAG DISplayed with the red field on top, I am reminded of my Scout Master who, some 70 years ago, demonstrated to our troop how to display the flag if hung vertically flat against the wall: the white triangle with the sun and stars on top, the blue field on the observer's right and the red field on his left.

In Congress and government offices, the flag, when displayed flat against the wall, has the red field on the observer's right and the blue field is on his left. I checked RA 8491, the Flag and Heraldic Code of the Philippines, and found the following provisions on the proper way of displaying the flag:

"Section 10. The flag, if flown from a flagpole, shall have its blue field on top in time of peace and the red field on top in times of war; if in a hanging position, the blue field shall be to the right (left of the observer) in time of peace, and the red field to the right (left of the observer) in time of war."

"Section 16. (e) Flat against the wall vertically with the sun and stars on top; (f) Hanging in a vertical position across a street, with the blue field pointing east; if the road is heading south or north, or pointing north if the road is heading east or west."

Section 10 is apparently the authority used for displaying the flag in Congress and government offices. But that section refers to a flag hanging in the air, where the observer's right or left depends on where he is observing the hanging flag: in front or behind the hanging flag. It cannot refer to a flag hanging vertically flat against the wall because Section 16 (e) takes care of that.

Actually, the phrases "in time of peace" and "in time of war" are ludicrous. We are probably the only country in the world that reverses the position of its flag in time of peace (whose peace?) and in times of war (whose war?), and it is supposed to be done only when the flag is flown from a flagpole (Section 10).

Section 16 (f) is applicable when the flag is hanging in a vertical position across a street which is "heading south or north" or "heading east or west."

Conclusion: The correct and proper way of displaying the flag vertically flat against the wall is with the blue field on the observer's right. When the country is at war, the red field should be on the observer's right, the blue field on his left.

I suggest, however, that the law be amended to eliminate this reversing of colors of the flag when displayed because there is no practical benefit in doing so. To repeat, we are probably the only country that does this.

—AMADO F. CABAERO,
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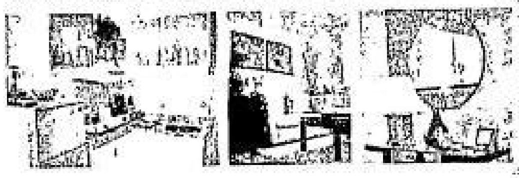

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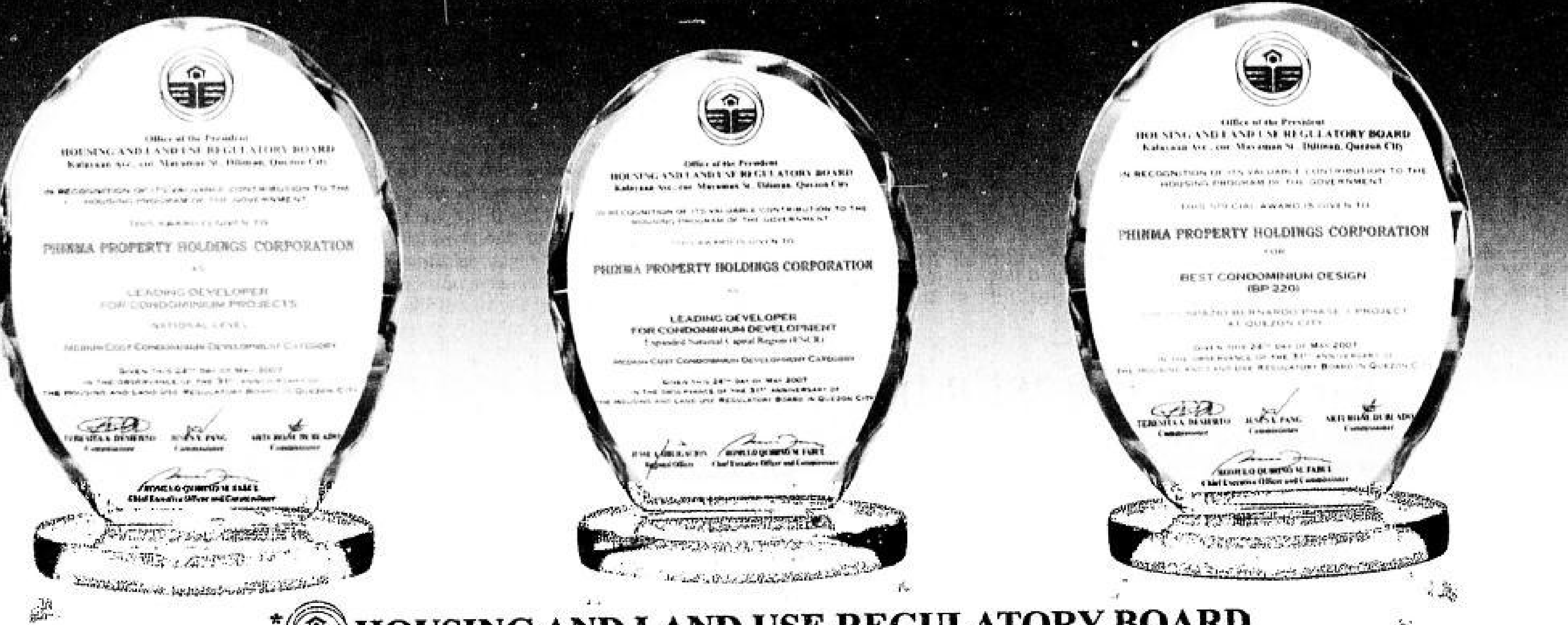
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Comfort woman dies without Japan apology

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
Iloilo City

UP TO HER LAST DAYS AS AN AILING WOMAN, FORCED to become a sex slave of Japanese soldiers during World War II, she had continued to seek justice by writing to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

On March 23, two weeks before she died, Tomasa Salinog, 78, urged that Japan should publicly acknowledge responsibility over what happened to her and other women herded to military brothels to work as "comfort women."

"I am appealing to you, Prime Minister Abe, to acknowledge the truths we have told. This is the justice I have been longing and praying for. We are aware of Japan's efforts for peace but there can be no peace in this world unless there is justice. I hope justice will come before I die," she wrote.

But Salinog's letter fell on deaf ears. She died of pneumonia on Good Friday, April 6, and was laid to rest on April 18.

To her last breath, she was a symbol of courage and dignity for insisting that the Japanese government should apologize to each comfort woman—living and dead—and pay reparations to all women who endured wartime sexual abuse.

Japan has maintained that it did not force women into sexual slavery during World War II. It has refused to indemnify "comfort women."

The abuse

Salinog was born on Dec. 8, 1928, in Pandan town in Antique to Evaristo Salinog and Patria Dioso, who died a month after she gave birth to her.

Salinog was 14 when the Kawamura Detachment of the Japanese Army landed in San Jose, the capital town, in April 1942. One rainy night in June, two Japanese soldiers rudely knocked on their door and asked for her. When her father refused to let her go, he was beheaded.

"It was when I held him in my arms that I found out his head had been severed. I was crying but the soldiers took no pity and dragged me out of the house," Salinog recalled in an earlier interview.

The Japanese brought her to a room in a two-story building, known as the Garrison (now the provincial police office) on Gobierno Street where she was raped and abused. When she resisted, she was hit by the soldiers. The rape continued for three days, often by two to five soldiers.

Once, Salinog was able to escape the comfort station in December 1943 when one soldier absentmindedly left the key on the table while she was doing housework. A couple hid her for some months but she was recaptured by a Colonel Okamura.

Okamura treated her like a slave, Salinog recalled. She was made to clean the house. He raped her; so did his friends who came to visit. She was freed when the Japanese soldiers completely left the province in 1945.

Unable to attend school, she sewed clothes to earn a living. She moved on but the memories of rape and violence haunted her, she said in an interview in 2002.

In November 1992, news reached Salinog that a group of Japanese lawyers were in Iloilo City to interview those who were sexually abused by Japanese soldiers during the war.

She reportedly sold her blanket so that she would have the money for a bus ride to the city where, for the first time, she recounted her ordeal as a "comfort woman."

Three months later, Salinog was interviewed by a Japanese lawyer Yuichi Yokota in order to file a case at the Tokyo District Court, along with 46 other comfort women from all over the Philippines. Among them was Maria Rosa Henson, the first Filipino "comfort woman" to come out.

On Oct. 15, 1993, Salinog, along with Henson, were presented at the Tokyo District Court.

Insult, shame

Instead of owning responsibility for the sexual abuse of women during World War II, the Japanese government set up the Asian Women's Solidarity Fund in 1995 from donations collected from its citizens. Many "comfort women," including Salinog, rejected the fund, saying it was an insult to them and not worth their horror and ordeal.

In October 1998, the court dismissed the claims filed against the Japanese government by Filipino comfort women. When she learned of the ruling, Salinog cried. "I am too ashamed to return home. If this is what happened, I wish I never joined this trial which took so many years," she said.

In 2000, Salinog brought her fight to the Women's International War Crimes Tribunal in Switzerland. A summary of findings was rendered, declaring Emperor Hirohito and the government of Japan guilty of crimes against humanity and for sexual crimes against women.

For the second time, on Dec. 20, 2000, Salinog filed an appeal to the Japanese Supreme Court, backed by the War Crimes Tribunal and some Japanese lawyers who supported her. But the Supreme Court dismissed the appeal on Dec. 25, 2003.

By rejecting the Asian Fund, Salinog's courage was admired by groups that supported the struggle of "comfort women" from all over Asia.

As a gesture of solidarity, on Aug. 31, 2001, the Asian Center for Women's Human Rights (Ascent), held a concert to solicit funds to build Salinog a house.

SALINOG

Lawyers, journalists, students and housewives, as well as organizations, contributed to the project.

Salinog's cream bungalow was inaugurated on Dec. 28, 2001, in Barangay Comon, San Jose, Antique. It stands just across her old nipa lean-to. In addition to a bedroom, kitchen, dining-cum-living room, the house has a space for a store. A spare bedroom is rented out to boarders.

When news of Salinog's death reached admirers, an outpouring of sympathy came, many of them from her friends in Japan, said her granddaughter Anecita Trasmonte-Altis.

Her lawyer, Yuichi Yokota, promised to continue to work on their demand to the Japanese government in order to "recover dignity of all women subjected to sexual slavery."

Salinog's friend, Miwa Imal, wrote: "How sad it is for her (Salinog) to leave in the middle of the fight. At the very least, I would like to apologize to her as a Japanese national … I would like to let her know that we won't let the same mistakes happen again."

Shigeto Takeuchi of the Labor Union of the National Railway at Ueda City, Nagano Prefecture, who once met Salinog, promised to continue her fight for her "last wish."

"I would like to live my remaining life with an imprint of your (Salinog's) letter to Prime Minister Abe that sounds like blood-spewing scream. Goodbye," wrote Miyoko Sakazume of the Tokyo's Catholic Archdiocesan Committee for Justice and Peace.

NOTICE TO MAYNILAD WATER CUSTOMERS AND THE PUBLIC
3rd Quarter 2007

The Metropolitan Waterworks & Sewerage System Regulatory Office in its Resolution No. 07-007 CA dated June 13, 2007 as approved and confirmed by the MWSS Board Resolution No. 2007-113 dated June 14, 2007, has granted Maynilad Water a Foreign Currency Differential Adjustment (FCDA) of -1.94% of the Basic Charge or P 0.44 per cubic meter downward tariff adjustment for the 3rd Quarter 2007.

The reduction of the FCDA is due to the continued appreciation of the peso against the dollar. The FCDA in the previous quarter of –P0.30 per cubic meter is further reduced by P0.14 per cubic meter, resulting in an FCDA of –P0.44 per cubic meter for the 3rd quarter 2007 or -1.94% of the basic tariff.

FCDA is a tariff mechanism granted to utility companies with foreign currency denominated obligations to allow them to compensate for fluctuations in the foreign exchange rates. The FCDA is adjusted upwards if the peso depreciates, and downwards if the peso appreciates. The FCDA mechanism is based on the principle of "no over or no under recovery".

In the case of Maynilad Water, the company pays foreign exchange denominated Concession Fees to the MWSS, as well as loans taken for service improvement projects to expand and modernize the company's water and sewerage services for its customers in the West Concession Service Area.

Maynilad's concession area covers the cities of Manila (all but portions of San Andres and Sta. Ana), Quezon (west of San Juan River, West Avenue, EDSA, Congressional, Mindanao Ave: the northern part starting from the Districts of the Holy Spirit and Batasan Hills), Makati (west of South Super Hi-way), Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa and Valenzuela, and the towns of Navotas and Malabon all in Metro Manila; Cavite City, and the towns of Bacoor, Imus, Kawit, Noveleta and Rosario, all in Cavite Province.

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Panlilio searches for cop vs 'jueteng'

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—PAMPANGA GOVERNOR-elect Eddie Panlilio has begun the selection process for the next provincial police director who could help his administration stop the alleged quarry scam and illegal numbers game "jueteng."

As of Friday, Panlilio's list included the names of five police officers. They have either offered to take the post or have been recommended by his supporters, Panlilio, a Catholic priest, said.

He is also waiting for a list of nominees from Chief Supt. Ismael Rafanan, Central Luzon police director.

"It's all a matter of choosing now," he said.

Integrity, competence, loyalty to duty, fairness, professionalism and God-centeredness are the criteria he has set in choosing the man for the job.

Panlilio has confirmed to the INQUIRER the names of those already on his list but asked that these not be published to minimize the lobbying done for their appointment. His team, he said, has started an "objective screening process."

Three police senior superintendents (colonels) on the list were known to have earned the ire of jueteng financiers at various times in their careers.

Panlilio said he would not place a big consideration on this reputation because the anti-illegal gambling campaign "should not be used to get back at any person."

"It's the sin that we are trying to eradicate, not the sinner because there's always room for conversion," he said.

While he considered the selection process to be "not difficult," three INQUIRER sources in the local police believed otherwise.

"Joining Among Ed (Panlilio) is like jumping into a frying pan," a police official said. "Are they brave enough to challenge 1-2?" he said, referring to alleged jueteng lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda.

Pineda had several times denied operating the game or the state-run small town lottery (STL). His name does not appear in the corporate records of two STL operators in Pampanga, an official of the franchise-holder, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, said.

A second police source said it was all a question of whether the aspirants would be willing to put their careers on the line.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NATURAL HIGH
Top police officials of the Ilocos region lead rites to set fire to 158 bricks of dried marijuana leaves at the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency compound in San Fernando, La Union.

School torched; plot to burn more bared

COTABATO CITY—UNIDENTIFIED PERPETRATORS torched a two-room public school building and a school clinic in Kalamansig, Sultan Kudarat early Thursday, police authorities said yesterday.

Senior Supt. Teng Tocao, Sultan Kudarat police chief, said arson investigators recovered traces of gasoline and incendiary materials inside the ruins of the buildings at the Obial Elementary School.

Tocao said while Kalamansig police authorities were still investigating the arson, a plot to burn other school buildings in Barangays Santa Maria and Santa Clara were also unearthed.

"Gasoline and highly flammable materials, including its igniter, a mosquito coil, were found in the buildings of Santa Maria Elementary School and Santa Clara Elementary School," he said.

Silverio Romo, a resident of Kalamansig, told the INQUIRER it appeared that a single group was behind the attacks as police found that the perpetrators used the same materials and techniques.

The election in Kalamansig had been controversial but Tocao said they were still investigating if the attacks were related to the recently concluded elections in the town.

In Buluan, Maguindanao, a newly elected town councilor and his driver-bodyguard suffered injuries in an ambush by unidentified gunmen on Wednesday.

Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, police chief of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said councilor-elect Galip Sangkikay of Buluan and his driver, identified only as Basco, were heading home from a remote village when fired upon by the gunmen around 4 p.m.

"Sangkikay and his driver suffered gunshot wounds in the body and are now recuperating at a private hospital in nearby Tacurong City," he said.

In Datu Odin Sinsuat town, also in Maguindanao, a farmer lost his arm when a shell for M-203 grenade launcher went off inside his home Friday.

Police said Marcus Macacua, 40, farmer of Barangay Dalican, found the rifle grenade while tilling his farm Thursday afternoon and brought it home. *Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao*

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PMA teaching staff's pay conflict reaches Congress

BAGUIO CITY—THE brewing tension between the civilian and military staff of the Philippine Military Academy here has reached Congress.

Maj. Gen. Leopoldo Maligalig, PMA superintendent, has asked Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan to help legislate a solution to the work and pay disparity that has disadvantaged civilian employees in the academy.

Some teachers endorsed a 2006 military audit proposal to deactivate the PMA corps of professors, as well as several other auxiliary military units to deal with limited funds going to the PMA through the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The corps is composed of military officers assigned to teach at the academy. Maligalig has objected to an audit report that questions the relevance of the corps today, saying the academy cannot exist without military professors.

But in a petition sent last year to then Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz, the civilian teachers claimed that they are burdened with most of the workload in the institution, yet they receive far smaller pay than master sergeants undertaking clerical duties at the PMA.

Domogan said he is trying to determine whether amending the salary standardization law (Republic Act No. 6758) or the Wage Rationalization Act (RA 6727) would resolve the issue.

"I am looking [at] how [matching the pay scale of military personnel and civilians with the same work description] can be addressed in the rationalization law," he said.

The Wage Rationalization Act empowers employers and their employees to set their own pay contracts to correct existing wage distortions that affect their companies.

PMA officials said that since 2006, the academy has been seeking legal ways to close the pay differences between civilian and military instructors.

But they said the PMA remains bound to the salary standardization law, which prescribes uniform pay to state workers based on their service levels.

The law grants military officers a much higher pay bracket according to their military ranks and regardless of where they are assigned.

Domogan said Congress may opt to enact a special law covering civilians employed by the military.

Some teachers said the government enforces the standardization law but only as far as categorizing salaries of civilians. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

ONE of the roles that a PMA cadet plays—displaying skills in drills for Independence Day rites.

RAFFY LERMA

‘Best efforts,’ says DFA of bid to bring OFW body to family

GUAGUA, PAMPANGA—THE DEpartment of Foreign Affairs on Friday sent a note verbale to the ambassador of Saudi Arabia to request the repatriation of the remains of beheaded overseas worker Reynaldo Cortez or to allow his family to visit his grave.

Foreign Undersecretary for Migrant Affairs Esteban Conejos said a copy of the note verbale was also sent to the Philippine Embassy in Riyadh.

“I don't want to raise expectations but we are exerting best efforts,” Conejos told the INQUIRER in a phone interview on Friday.

As he told Cortez's wife, Melody, on Thursday, laws and customary traditions in Saudi Arabia require the immediate burial of executed convicts.

“The practice applies to Muslims and Christians,” Conejos said.

He said it was in that light that the Philippine government, on behalf of Cortez's family, “cannot get back the body.”

“We're still hoping,” Melody said of her family's plans to bring home Cortez's remains and bury him here.

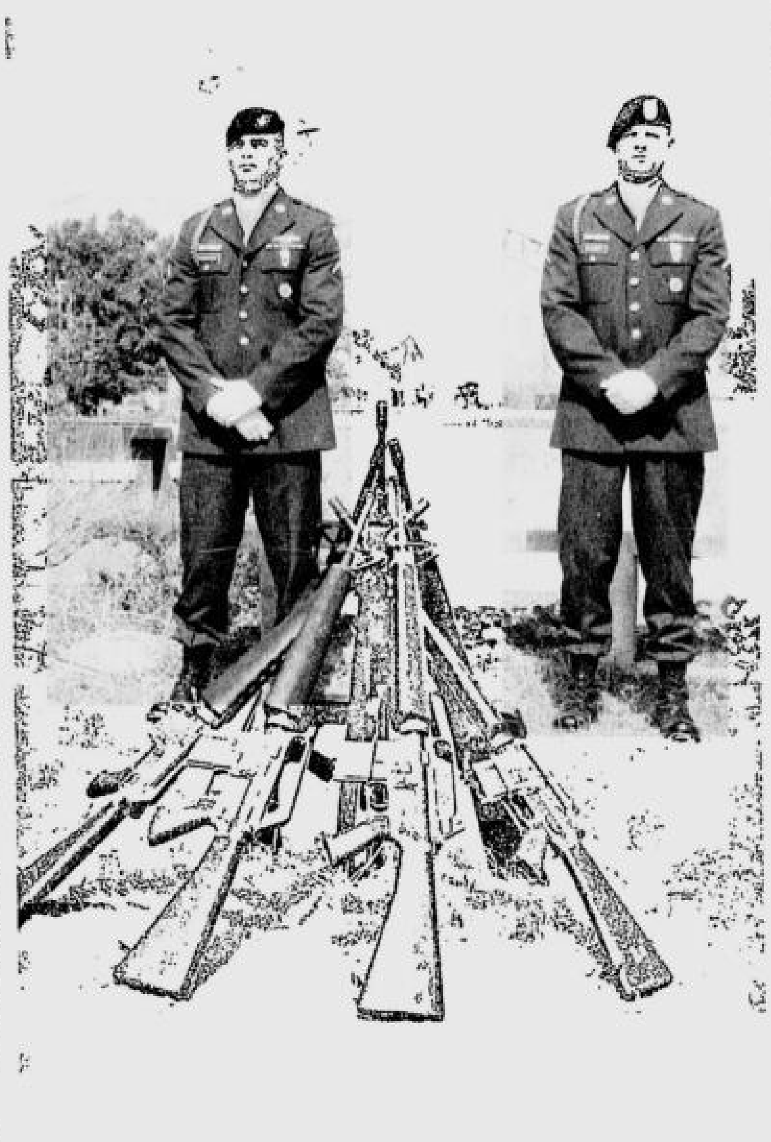
She and her six children have begun holding a wake for Cortez by lighting candles on an altar where his old photographs are displayed.

Cortez, 41, was beheaded on Wednesday for the murder of a Pakistani taxi driver who reportedly tried to rape him in 2001.

Melody said her husband was innocent and that he stabbed and killed the Pakistani to defend himself.

Cortez, a welder, was first sentenced to 10-15 years of imprisonment. In 2005, this was upgraded to a death sentence by beheading. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Fil-Am troop buried; another is dead



TWO AMERICAN soldiers guard the M-16 rifles to be used by the honor guards for the 21-gun salute for US Army Sgt. Richard Valiant Correa who died in Iraq last month.

PHOTOS BY RAY B. ZAMBRANO/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

US ARMY Brig. Gen. Harvey Landwermeyer gives the American flag to Ricardo Primicias, father of US Army Sgt. Richard Correa who died in Iraq last month, during the soldier's burial in Lingayen, Pangasinan.

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—THE Filipino-American Army sergeant who died in Iraq last month was buried Friday in a family-owned lot across the town cemetery here in full US military honors.

US Army Sgt. Richard Valiant Correa, 25, also received three posthumous awards, including the Bronze Star Medal, the fourth highest US military award for gallantry in action, shortly after Mass at the Catholic Church here.

US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney failed to attend the ceremony. US Army Brig. Gen. Harvey Landwermeyer, assistant division commander (support) of the 2nd Infantry Division based in South Korea, led representatives of the US government.

Correa was killed on May 29 after he was severely wounded by a roadside bomb near Ilbu Falris in Iraq. Another soldier, Army Staff Sgt. Joseph Weiglein, 31, of Audubon, New Jersey, was also killed in the blast.

Correa was the second Pangasinense to have died in the US war against terror in Iraq. On Nov. 7 last year, US Army Staff Sgt. Richwell Doria of Dagupan City was killed in Kirkuk, Iraq, after he was struck by small arms fire during an air assault mission.

“Your watch has now ended, Valiant,” said Ivy Primicias-Nalupta, Correa's sister, who delivered the family's response during the necrological service.

“Your mission is complete. It's time for you to rest,” she said.

Correa first joined the US Air Force shortly after his high school graduation from the Lingayen Educational Center here in 1989. He moved to the Army when he reenlisted in the US military four years later.

“Entering the military service was Valiant's dream,” Nalupta said. “No matter how [we] dissuaded him from entering this dangerous and perilous calling, he insisted and said, ‘This is my life and this is what I want,’” she said.

Correa's parents, Ricardo Primicias and Maria Minda Correa, were too grief-stricken during the service. Primicias is the brother of former Pangasinan Gov. Cipriano Primicias Jr. and the son of the late Sen. Cipriano Primicias Sr.

“Goodbye for now, dear brother,” Nalupta said. “Maybe, God needs someone to cheer Him up and make Him laugh. Maybe, God needs an angel. Maybe, God needs a hero just like you.”

Another Filipino-American, Staff Sgt. Greg Gagarin, also died in Iraq in a bomb explosion.

His relatives in Candon City recall that every time Gagarin returns to his family's house in Barangay Caterman in Candon, the sound of firecrackers would ring in the neighborhood.

“You would know when my son is here… Greg loves to set off firecrackers every time he comes home,” said his father, Ernesto, a retired master sergeant in the US Air Force.

The sound of firecrackers would soon be replaced by a gun salute when Gagarin is buried in his hometown here on June 20.

Gagarin, 38, died with four other soldiers in Tahnia, Iraq, when a bomb exploded near their vehicle on June 3.

“Maybe he wouldn't need firecrackers anymore as the US military would be giving him full military honors, including the 21-gun salute,” said his father.

“He never forgot his roots. He met with his old classmates and he spoke fluent Ilocano [every time he returned home],” he said.

“He's very sociable and easygoing,” said Gagarin's eldest brother, Gary.

Gagarin's body will arrive here tomorrow. It will be accompanied by his wife, Elma, and their two children, who are based in Los Angeles.

Gagarin was the third of six children. He was born here and studied at the Caterman Elementary School before migrating to the States when he was 10.

He joined the Reserve Corps of the US National Guard when he was 17 and joined the Army.

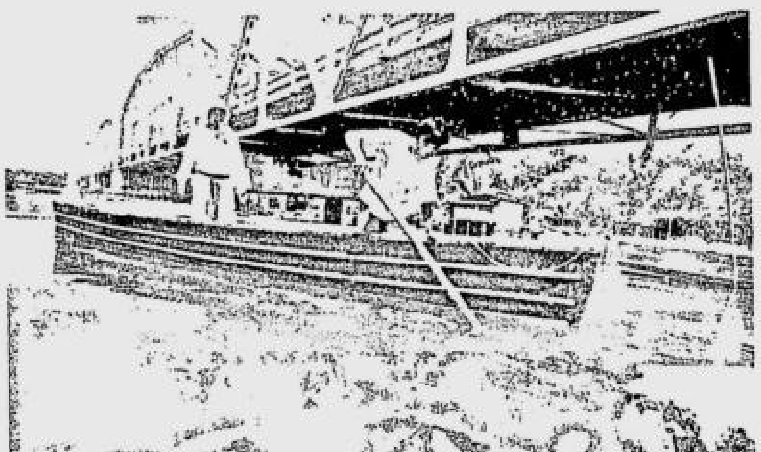
“He loved the action,” said Gary.

He volunteered for the Operation Desert Storm in 1991 and was stationed in South Korea. He had volunteered for duty in Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom starting 2003.

“He loved reading military books so he was inclined to join the military,” his father said. *Gabriel Cardinoza and Frank Cimatu, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Greed seen cause of Pangasinan fish kill

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon



FISHERMEN retrieve dead *bangus* in Anda, Pangasinan. Officials blamed the fish kill on overstocking of fish cages. The town's mayor called it greed.

AP

ANDA, PANGASINAN—IT'S THE same old story with the same ending.

The fish kill that occurred in the island town of Anda this week was very much like the one that devastated the *bangus* (milkfish) industry in neighboring Bolinao town five years ago, when P500 million worth of *bangus* cultured in fish cages was wiped out.

Fishery experts and local officials cited the same reason for the fish kill in Anda—overstocking of cages that resulted in water pollution.

Mayor Nestor Pulido added another factor: the sudden heavy rain after days of sunshine that could have affected the salinity of the water.

“The confluence of manmade and natural factors caused the disaster,” Pulido told the INQUIRER.

He said the town lost about P100 million worth of *bangus* in the fish kill.

Nestor Domenden, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources director in the Ilocos, said he received information about the poor water quality in Anda as early as June 10.

“I was told that there was *gataw* or the dissolved oxygen level in the fish cage areas was very low. We verified the information on Monday (June 11) and we confirmed that the oxygen level had really gone down,” he said.

The salinity, temperature and acidity (pH) were at critical levels, he said.

Immediately, BFAR officials asked the town's agriculture personnel and fish cage and pen operators to determine the best thing to do to minimize losses.

The remedial measure was the use of aerators but the final option was the harvesting of fish stocks.

Some operators immediately harvested their stock while others did not, Domenden said.

When the water quality worsened on Wednesday, it was too late for some operators to save their stocks and their *bangus* ended up in a “mass grave” hastily dug by the local government in Barangay Mal-ong, the village worst hit by the fish kill.

Pulido said a fish cage measuring 18 meters x 18 meters should only be stocked with 30,000 *bangus*, but most operators stocked 50,000 or almost double the volume.

Fish pens measuring 40 meters x 70 meters could support only 50,000 but they were stocked with 100,000 *bangus*.

Pulido said he had been warning operators about a possible disaster that could strike the industry but his plea was ignored.

“Sometimes, it's greed that drives the operators to overstock, but they do not consider the carrying capacity of the water,” he said.

“I am sad that the town's *bangus* industry was hit by a fish kill because many people benefit from the industry. But on the other hand, I am happy that it occurred, hoping that the operators will learn their lessons, although with a high price,” he said.

It is during harvest time that the industry employs many people like divers, classifiers and counters, drivers, motorboat operators and truck drivers.

It is a big industry and it contributes taxes to the local government, Pulido said.

But he said many operators do not have permits from the local government.

“One morning you wake up and cages have proliferated,” he said.

He said local fish cage operators “almost closed shop” early last year because of very low prices of *bangus*, which fell to P65 a kilogram because of oversupply.

Cops tag losing mayoral bet in murder

By Cristina Arzadon
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LAOAG CITY—THE POLICE HAVE tagged a losing mayoral candidate in Bacarra, Ilocos Norte, as the mastermind in the murder of Mayor Philip Velasco and Councilor Marcelo Andaya in the town last month.

Officials of the police's Task Force Velasco identified former Councilor Villamor Ramelb, now the acting vice mayor of the town, as the brains behind what the police called a “well-laid out murder” of Velasco and Andaya.

Ramelb placed third in a three-cornered fight among reelectionist Velasco and his uncle, former Mayor Pacifico Velasco.

Mayor Velasco and Andaya were gunned down inside the town's auditorium while they were attending a farmers' festival on May 20.

The police have filed double murder and multiple frustrated murder charges at the provincial prosecutor's office here on Thursday against Ramelb and four others.

The four other suspects, according to the police, were suspected members of the Aguila gang, a gun-for-hire syndicate operating in Northern Luzon.

Three suspects were identified as Emerson Alzate, the suspected gang leader; Richard Bingayen, and a certain Eric.

In a statement, Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, Ilocos police director, said Ramelb was implicated in the murders by a gang member.

Ramelb, through a statement released by his lawyer, Ferdinand Ignacio, said he was ready to face the charges, “which were based on a half-baked investigation.”

Ignacio said Ramelb could not disclose his location because the official feared for his safety after several vehicles chased his car from Bacarra to Currimao town on Thursday.

Ignacio said they had the impression that Ramelb would be linked to the murders a week before the police filed the charges because witnesses were supposedly paid to implicate him.

Bataoil said the plan to kill Velasco was hatched last year.

“The plan was hatched last year but it was not carried out because of the costly price for the hit job,” he said.

He said police were told the murders were carried out for a fee of P1.5 million.

He said Alzate's supposed errand boy admitted that he was inside Ramelb's compound when the latter gave the initial payment to Alzate on May 9 or five days before the elections.

Supt. Pedro Austria, task force chief, said an eyewitness has told the police how Ramelb and the other suspects supposedly planned the murder.

“It was a well-laid out plan. It took us a week after the murders to break a lead on the suspects,” Austria said.

He said their investigation showed that the gunman intended to kill both Velasco and Andaya when he executed the plan.

“The gunman hit Andaya first then fired successively next at Velasco,” Austria said.

The task force has established personal differences between Velasco and Ramelb as the motive behind the killing.

“The personal conflict between Ramelb and Velasco goes back to more than a year [before the elections],” Austria said.

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LOS BAÑOS
College, Laguna 4031
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC)
(For supplies, materials, equipment and non-personal services)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Reference No.: UPLB-089-07 & UPLB-090-07

The University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to submit bids for the following item.

Item	End-User	Approved Budget
Pump and Starter	PPMSO-WWS	Php 2,304,000.00
Tractors	PPMSO	Php 1,980,000.00

Interested parties may secure the bidding documents from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat (BAC-Sec) Office at the International House complex, UP Los Baños. The bid forms may also be downloaded either from UPLB website (http://admin.uplb.edu.ph/bac) or PhilGEPS (https://www.philgeps.net/GEPS). Bidding fee of P2,000.00 for pump and starter and P1,500.00 for tractors shall be required from the bidders payable upon securing of the bid documents from the BAC-Sec Office or upon submission of eligibility requirements or on the day of submission/opening of bids.

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

Particulars	Date/Time	Place
Issuance of Bid Documents	Starts on June 15, 2007 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM	BAC-SEC
Pre-Bid Conference	July 4, 2007 3:30 PM	BAC-SEC
Submission of Eligibility Requirements	On or before July 16, 2007 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM	BAC-SEC
Submission/Opening of Bids	July 18, 2007 1:30 PM	BAC-SEC

The UPLB reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Inquiries may be forwarded to Alexis C. del Rosario, Chair, BAC-Secretariat at telephone nos. (49) 536-8419 or 536-8420.

(Sgd.) ARSENIO N. RESURRECCION
Chair, BAC

(PDI—June 16, 2007)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER (PICC)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ONE-YEAR CONTRACT FOR THE OPERATION
& PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICE OF PICC CENTRALIZED
AIRCONDITIONING UNITS/SYSTEM

The PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER (PICC), through its Approved Budget for CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of TWO MILLION TWO HUNDRED THIRTY THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED PESOS (P2,230,800.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments for the above-mentioned procurement of services. Bids in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The PICC now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for abovementioned requirement to be procured.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of the Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Prospective bidders are required to download the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid from Phil-GEPS website. The BAC will issue hard copies of the bid documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FOUR THOUSAND PESOS (P4,000.00). The method of payment will be in cash. The bidding documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat of the PICC and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below anytime during office hours from June 22, 2007 to June 29, 2007.

The PICC-BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on July 4, 2007, 11:00 a.m. at the Cafeteria area, PICC, CCP Complex, Pasay City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below at or before 11:00 a.m., July 20, 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of (Cash/Manager's/Cashier's Check) in the amount of P22,308.00 or if surety bond, in the amount of P55,770.00 or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on July 20, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. at the Cafeteria area, PICC, CCP Complex, Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

The PICC-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

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PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER
CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City 1307
(02) 551-8230 or (632) 551-7920 loc. 7855 and 7149
Telefax No. (02) 551-6873
Email add. BAC1@picc.gov.ph

(Sgd.) VICTORIA C. BERCILES
BAC Chairperson

(PDI—June 16, 2007)

SPORTS

More Sports stories on A23 to 26

SAN MIGUEL Beer quarterback Olsen Racela (right) foils a driving Egay Echavez of Barangay Ginebra.
RYAN LIM

Beermen, Pals force KO match

GAMES TOMORROW (Araneta Coliseum)
4:05 p.m.—Air21 vs Talk 'N Text
6:35 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs San Miguel Beer

By Musong R. Castillo

SAN MIGUEL BEER AND TALK 'N Text wasted no time in getting the business of forging a no-tomorrow contest over and done with.

The Beermen came out hard against a Barangay Ginebra squad that was unusually soft and San Miguel hammered out a 111-89 victory last night at the Cuneta Astrodome that forged a rubber match in their Fiesta Cup quarterfinal series.

San Miguel steadily scooted away late in the first period to rebound from a Game 1 rout and force a knockout game against Barangay Ginebra for the right to play Alaska in the semifinals.

The Beermen had it so easy against the Kings. In fact, four of the team's six top scorers came off the bench. Francis Adriano, known mostly for his defense, led the way for the Beermen with 16 markers.

"I guess we got to live another day," said San Miguel's soft-spoken Siot Tanquingcen, who took his turn in predicting a Ginebra rebound in the knockout Game 3 scheduled tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum.

"For sure, coach Jong will come back stronger in the next game," he added. "It's going to be a fight to the end."

The Phone Pals took the same route in denying the Air21 Express their chance to make it to the semifinals last night.

Except for a mild scare midway through the fourth, Talk 'N Text practically coasted to a 108-92 victory that set up a you-or-me battle against Air21 also tomorrow.

The winner of that match advances to the semifinals opposite outright qualifier Red Bull.

Worst loss

It was the worst loss for Ginebra in the tournament, with the Kings missing open shots silly and the Beermen flaunting complete control to even lead by as many as 26 points late in the fourth period behind some of their shock troopers.

Enrico Villanueva, Olsen Racela, Chris Calaguio and Danny Ildefonso all added 14 points each, while starting point guard LA Tenorio tossed in 10.

Young, the hero in San Miguel's 102-101 victory over Coca-Cola in the wildcard phase, was held to a tournament-low eight points. But he made up for it by grabbing nine rebounds and dishing off seven assists.

The scores:

First Game

SAN MIGUEL BEER 111—Adriano 16, Villanueva 14, Racela 14, Calaguio 14, Ildefonso 14, Tenorio 10, Young 8, Wilson 7, Pena 7, Gonzales 3, Espinas 2, Cablay 2, Rodriguez 0.

BARANGAY GINEBRA 89—Nealy 23, Mamaril 13, Tubid 11, Macapagal 8, Santos 7, Echavez 6, Menk 5, Abarrientos 5, Salvacion 3, Holper 2, Hubalde 2, Chia 2, Seigle 2.

Quarters: 26-20, 58-47, 88-67, 111-89

Second Game

TALK 'N TEXT 108—Sullinger 21, Cardona 19, Billones 18, Allado 16, Carey 12, Washington 10, Belano 6, Fran 2, Noble 2, De Ocampo 2.

AIR21 92—Daniels 21, Torion 12, Canaleta 11, Telan 11, Santos 9, Arboleda 8, Marquez 4, Dimaunahan 4, Se 2, Andaya 0.

Quarters: 28-25, 56-48, 86-75, 108-92

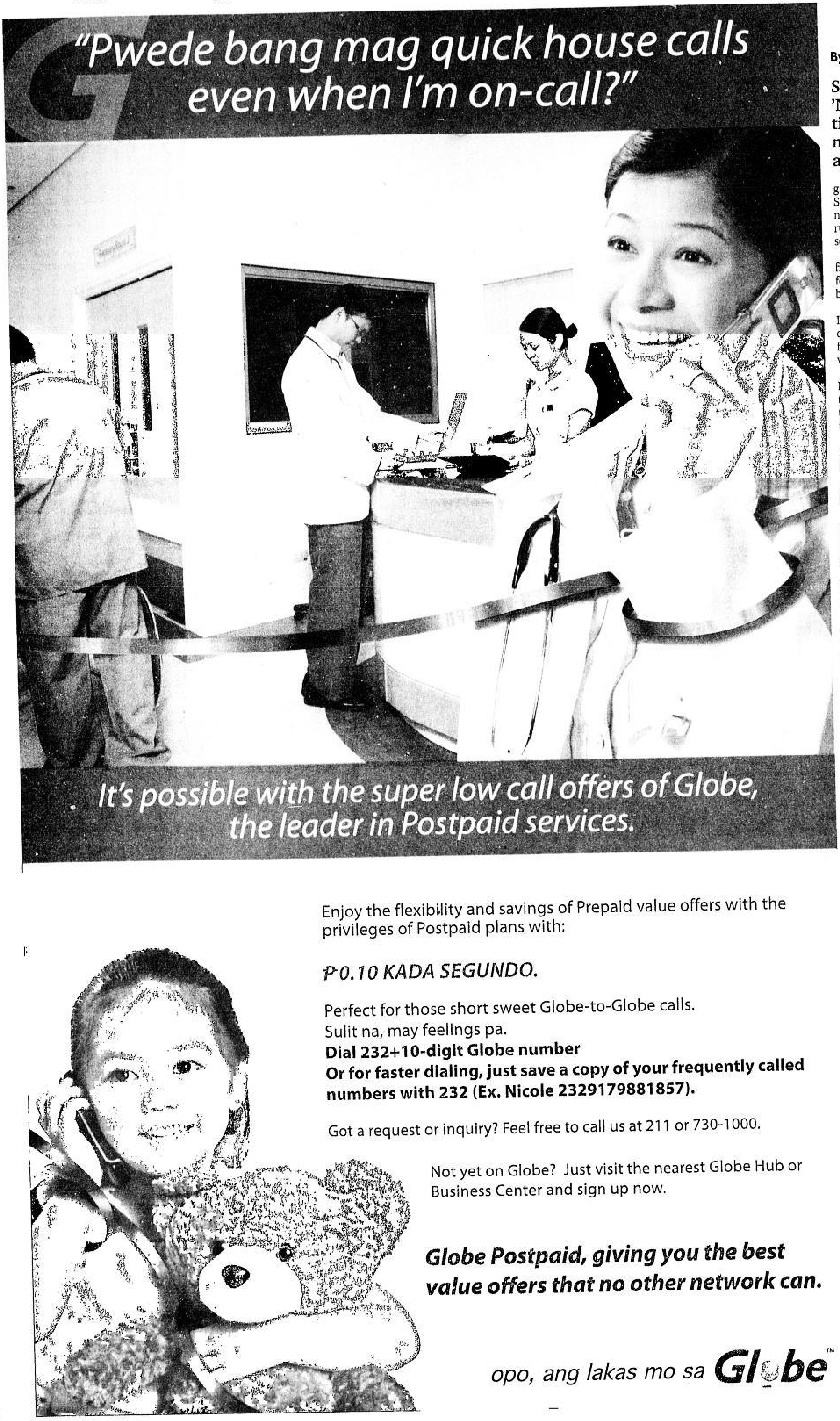
Mountain bike tilt gets going today

SOME 150 MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDERS ARE EXpected to vie for the titles at stake in the first Mayor Freddie Tinga Mountainbike Cup kicking off today at the Fast Track Circuit in Upper Bicutan, Taguig City.

The two-day event will be a totally different experience for the participants, who will test their skills and strategy on a highly technical off road track actually designed for motocross races.

Competing riders in this event organized by Xtreme Worx Philippines will be vying for the titles in the Midget division (12-16 years), Youth (17-22 years), Juniors (23-29 years), Masters 1 (30-39 years), Masters 2 (40 and above), Pro, Women's class, Four Cross Challenge and the Jump competition.

For more info check out www.namssa.org or call 09178992363



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Mark Jimenez, three others on BI watchlist

DOJ order follows filing of raps by live-in partner

JIMENEZ

By Leila B. Salaverria

MARK JIMENEZ AND THREE OTHERS HAVE been placed on the Bureau of Immigration's watchlist on orders of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez in connection with criminal charges filed against the former Manila congressman by Jimenez' live-in partner Caroline Castañeda.

Apart from Jimenez, Diana Crespo, Rene Ma. Dos Remedios, and Edgar Francisco are facing charges of kidnapping, serious illegal detention and grave coercion in the Department of Justice.

Gonzalez issued the directive to Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan on June 8, two days after Caroline filed her complaint.

The complaint stemmed from Caroline's detention at Silvercrest Foundation Inc., a drug rehabilitation facility, for allegedly being a drug user. Diana Crespo, a niece of Jimenez, owns the establishment.

Caroline was later rescued from Silvercrest by National Bureau of Investigation agents.

In her complaint before the DOJ, Caroline denied she was a drug user. She added that she feared for her life and was mentally tortured during her detention.

Protection

Caroline said she was detained to prevent her from testifying in the case she filed against Mark. She then sought—and was granted—a temporary and permanent protection order against Mark, claiming she had suffered physical, emotional and psychological abuse in the 30 years she and Mark were together.

Caroline claimed Mark told her that he wanted the two of them to continue living together and he did not want her to testify in court. He also said he was the only one who could order her release from Silvercrest.

While she was in Silvercrest, Caroline said attendants also took her blood samples and gave her drugs with no prescription.

Before her detention, Jimenez' live-in partner said she was abducted by 10 men at the parking lot of the Makati Tuscany Condominium while she was on her way to her lawyer's office. She said her police escort, PO2 Joseph Tabarreho, did not try to stop the abduction.

The complaint added that Caroline was hogtied and made to lie on the backseat of the getaway vehicle. Hearing the sound of airplanes, she thought she was going to be flown out of Manila. Instead, Caroline claimed she was kept in a cramped room with grilled windows where she kept track of time by etching on the wall the number of days she was detained.

Jimenez had denied the charges earlier, saying these were baseless and that Caroline only wanted to extort money from him.

Fireman denies looting charge

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE FIREFIGHTER CAUGHT ON CAMERA opening a parcel during a fire Tuesday night at the Pasay City PhilPost building said he was only helping out by gathering scattered packages.

"FO3 Ricky Catluna said a PhilPost employe told him to help clear the mess by gathering the wet boxes to put in a sack for an inventory later," Chief Insp. Roel Diaz, the Pasay City fire marshall, told the INQUIRER.

Cataluna was ordered to explain in writing the GMA 7 footage that seemed to indicate he was caught looting as the building burned.

In his affidavit, the firefighter said that as he picked up a bottle of pills—an act caught by a television camera—he heard someone ask, "*Ano yan?*"

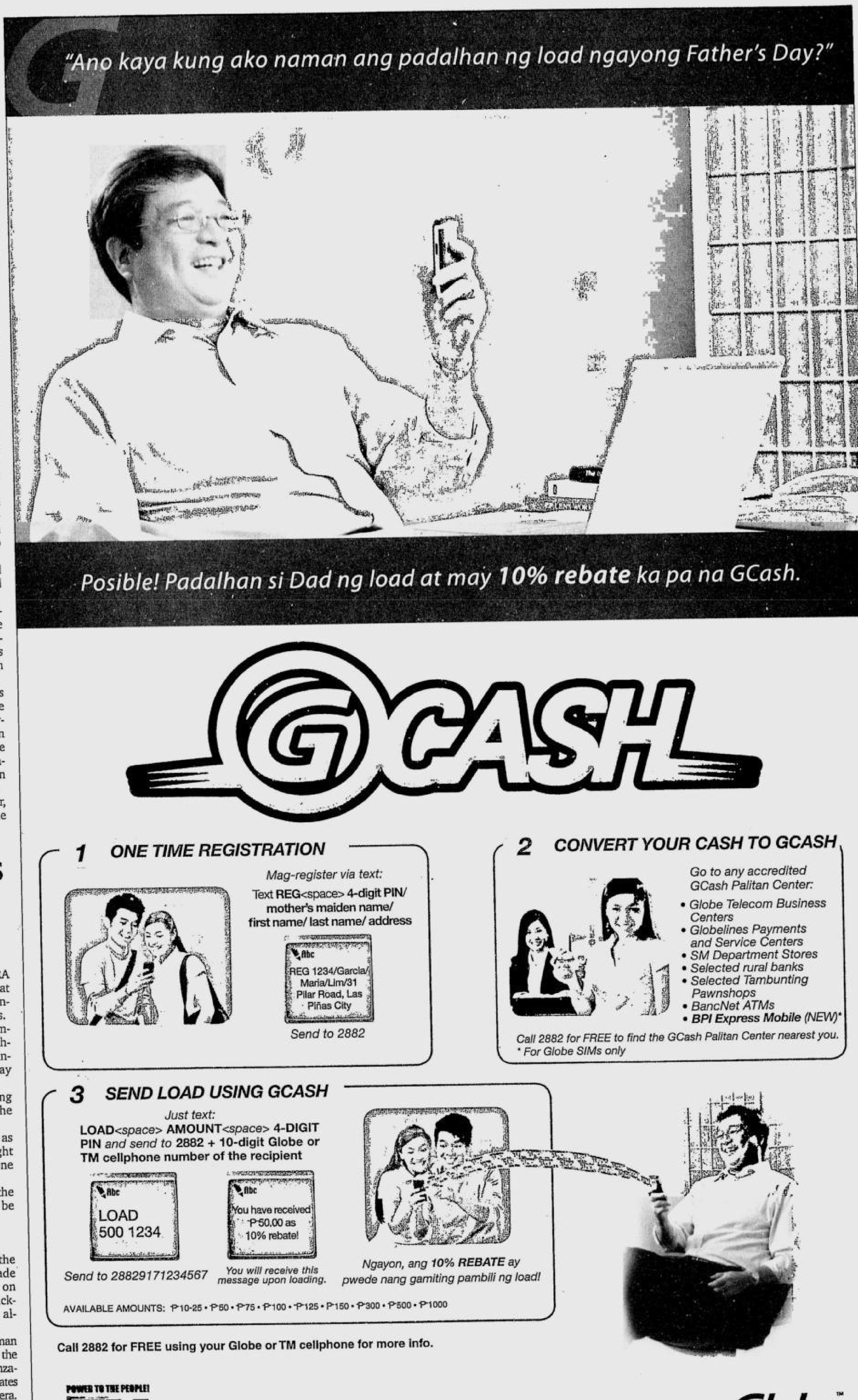
"Cataluna then raised the bottle to the nearest source of light, which happened to be a TV camera," Diaz said.

Affidavits

Volunteer firemen Darwin Balbona of the Barangay Baclaran Volunteer Fire Brigade and Eric Gonzaga, who were also caught on camera allegedly rummaging through packages at the parcels section of the building, also submitted their own affidavits.

Balbona claimed he was told by a camera man to go through the motion of sifting through the packages in front of the camera, Diaz said. Gonzaga, for his part, said he found a bag of chocolates and was also told to show it in front of the camera.

The Bureau of Fire Protection in Pasay City earlier said Cataluna could face administrative and criminal charges if his explanation was not satisfactory, and could be dismissed from the service if he is found guilty.



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4 Makati City hospital doctors accused of negligence

By Tina G. Santos and DJ Yap

A SINGAPOREAN NATIONAL DEtained at Camp Bagong Diwa has filed a complaint in the National Bureau of Investigation for the death of his common-law wife and unborn child in a Makati City government hospital.

William Chee Hong Leong, 41, a detainee at the Bureau of Immigration detention center in Taguig charged doctors Tecson, Enteria, Villar and Banzon, all of Ospital ng Makati, with medical malpractice and gross negligence resulting in multiple homicide.

Head agent Arnel Dalumpines, chief of the NBI Special Task Force, said the complainant wanted an investigation of the circumstances surrounding the death of Haydee Eguio, 33, of Barangay Pitogo, Makati City, who was five months pregnant with his child.

As this developed, the director of the Ospital ng Makati ordered a thorough investigation into the death of Leong's live-in partner.

In his complaint, Leong said Eguio visited him June 4 complaining of chest pains, difficulty in breathing, vomiting, diarrhea and stomach pains. He said he advised her to go to a hospital for a checkup.

The next day, Eguio reportedly told the complainant that she had gone to the hospital but was discharged after six hours. She was given an analgesic for fever, she added.

As Eguio said she was still not feeling well, the complainant said he advised her to return to the hospital.

But on June 7, Leong received a text message from Eguio's brother informing him that his live-in partner was in critical condition. Leong sought the help of the Singapore Embassy in getting a temporary release. When he arrived at the hospital, an attendant told him his wife had passed away.

A certain Dr. Tecson said Eguio was already dead when she was brought to the hospital on the evening of June 6, the complainant said.

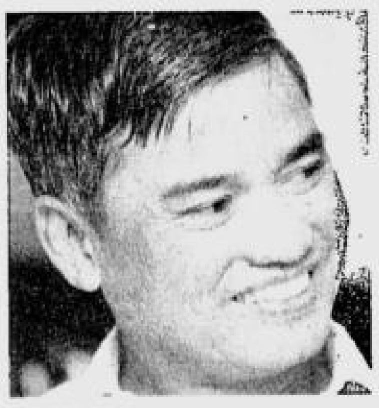
Another doctor, an obstetrician-gynecologist, said Eguio was found to have high fever based on urine and blood tests, Leong said. The complainant added that the doctor did not specify the cause of his wife's death. He said he was informed later that his wife died of a heart attack.

But the complainant said his wife was in good health and had no heart ailment. An autopsy showed she died of "necrotizing antero-colitis with gangrene and perforation."

To help in the investigation, Dr. Julius Drilon summoned not just the four physicians named by Leong in his complaint but "everyone involved" in the case to explain what happened, the Makati government's public affairs chief Joey Salgado said.

The doctors included in the complaint had left the hospital when the INQUIRER tried to reach them for comment yesterday.

Munti's Fresnedi: Back being private citizen



FRESNEDI

By Julie M. Aurelio

MUNTINLUPA CITY MAYOR Jaime Fresnedi said he would not ask for the holding of another local election and would settle for a new lifestyle as a private citizen.

Fresnedi, who has completed three terms, fielded his wife Loretta against opposition candidate Aldrin San Pedro, his vice mayor.

But after three terms as mayor, Fresnedi said he would sorely miss his duties and the projects he undertook.

"However, I am happy knowing I will leave Muntinlupa with many projects and structures I helped build," the outgoing mayor said.

"I am proud of what I did. My 20 years of work were not in vain," Fresnedi said.

The mayor said he was still collaborating with some non-governmental groups in drawing up plans for vocational courses for poor Muntinlupa residents.

San Pedro is scheduled to assume as mayor on July 2.

"I plan to consult with Mayor Fresnedi to ask for his help and guidance. After all he served for nine years. I also want a smooth transition," he said in an earlier interview with the INQUIRER.

San Pedro, along with oppositionist and reelectionist Rep. Ruffy Biazon, won against administration candidates Loretta Fresnedi and Dong Puno.

Fresnedi expressed hopes his successor would continue with his eight-point program covering livelihood, health, education, local governance, economy, peace and order, and senior citizens' concerns.

Family of slain seminarian wants justice

By Jeannette I. Andrade

JUSTIN DANIEL BATACLAN would have been a priest next year.

Bataclan was killed after a burglar broke into his house in Cubao, Quezon City to steal two cellular phones on June 7.

Jojo Fernandez, Bataclan's uncle who works at the Office of the Ombudsman, does not want his nephew's death to be just another crime statistic. He wants justice for his nephew, the third in a family of four.

"He was a very kind boy who would have made a very good priest. We still can't accept that he was killed inside his own house," Fernandez said.

Bataclan, 21, was in his fourth year at the St. Paul Seminary in Makati City and was a prospective cum laude, being consistently at the top of his class.

Fernandez said his nephew was stabbed at least 11 times in the body and neck. The burglar, who was able to escape, remains unidentified.

"For two days, his father, Allan, was unable to speak from the shock," Fernandez told the INQUIRER.

Records of the Quezon City Police District Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit (QCPD-CIDU) showed the incident happened at around 10 p.m. on June 7 at 24 Lantana Street, Barangay Mariana in Cubao.

Fernandez said the area near the Bataclan house housed several drug dependents. One of them could have broken into the seminarian's home, he added.

Bataclan's body was brought yesterday to the St. Paul Seminary. A Mass will be celebrated at 7 a.m. today at the school before his interment at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
CJS UNO TRAVEL & TOURS CORP. 5B Osmena Bldg., 1991 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila	Ilshun Youn	Marketing Manager
PHILIPPINE AXA LIFE INSURANCE CORP. 3/F Philippine AXA Life Centre, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Tindalo St., Makati City	Norman Hamilton McLeod	Chief Agency Officer
ACFSP (PHILIPPINE GRACE CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL) Grace Village, Quezon City	Chun-Ting Kuo	Teacher (Volunteer)
ACFSP (PHILIPPINE GRACE CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL) Grace Village, Quezon City	Ta-Wei Yueh	Teacher (Volunteer)
ACFSP (ST. PETER THE APOSTLE SCHOOL) Pres. Quirino Ave., Paco, Manila	Wen-Chang Wang	Teacher (Volunteer)
ACFSP (CHIANG KAI SHEK COLLEGE) 1274 Padre Algue St., Tondo, Manila	Kuan-Wei Hsieh	Teacher (Volunteer)
ACFSP (PHILIPPINE ACADEMY OF SAKYA) 1463 G. Masangkay St., Sta Cruz, Manila	Ting-Yu Kuo	Teacher (Volunteer)
ACFSP (PHILIPPINE ACADEMY OF SAKYA) 1463 G. Masangkay St., Sta Cruz, Manila	Chih-Hsiang Hu	Teacher (Volunteer)
ACFSP (PHILIPPINE CHEN KUANG HIGH SCHOOL) 210 P. Parada St., San Juan, Metro Manila	Shr-Rung Chen	Teacher (Volunteer)
ACFSP (PHILIPPINE CHEN KUANG HIGH SCHOOL) 210 P. Parada St., San Juan, Metro Manila	Chen Wu	Teacher (Volunteer)
ACFSP (DAVAO CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL) Sta. Ana Ave. cor. J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City	Tsung-Hsien Huang	Teacher (Volunteer)
ACFSP (ZAMBOANGA CHUNG HUA HIGH SCHOOL) Gen. Vicente Alvarez St., Zamboanga City	Shih-Ping Tai	Teacher (Volunteer)
ACFSP (ZAMBOANGA CHUNG HUA HIGH SCHOOL) Gen. Vicente Alvarez St., Zamboanga City	Yu-Chang Li	Teacher (Volunteer)
DAEBAK INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION 3/F East 21 Manila Condo., 1724 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila	Ohseong Kwon	Manager
DAEBAK INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION 3/F East 21 Manila Condo., 1724 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila	Man Ho Kim	Vice President
DAEBAK INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION 3/F East 21 Manila Condo., 1724 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila	Youngsu Noh	President
KAPATIRAN APPAREL, INC. U-3303 Antel Global Bldg., J. Vargas. Ave., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Koon Seo Park	Consultant
LIH YUH PHILS. CONSULTANCY INC. 1000 Escoda St. cor. San Marcelino St., Malate, Manila	Jinyoung Lee	Consultant
SYKES ASIA INC. 26/F Robinsons Summit Center, 6783 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Youjin Lee (w/o CHOI)	Korean Client Support
PT TALK ENTERPRISE 15 House MB Aguirre, President Ave. cor. Elizalde St., BF Homes, Parañaque City	Hyungsub Kim	Operation Manager
BHARAT SERUMS AND VACCINES LIMITED PHILIPPINES REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE 406,407 The Linden Suites, 37 San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Sadanand Shriniwas Gokhale	Vice President Business Development/ Operating Manager
PHILIPPINE BILLION STRONG MINERAL CORP. 50 Lapu Lapu St., Magallanes Village, Makati City	Shule Zhang	General Manager
ALPASTRA CORP. 325 H. Lopez Blvd., Balut, Tondo, Manila	Aihua Lu	Sales Supervisor
SINO BEIJING FOOT SPA CO. #1 Riverview St. cor. Santolan Rd., Blue Ridge, Quezon City	Anping Liu	Office Manager
KAIKWONG INTERNATIONAL BUILDERS CO., INC. #11 Freemont Arcade Bldg., Shaw Blvd., Pasig City	Bingan He	Plumbing Supervisor
KAIKWONG INTERNATIONAL BUILDERS CO., INC. #11 Freemont Arcade Bldg., Shaw Blvd., Pasig City	Kin Keung Tam	Plumbing Supervisor
KAIKWONG INTERNATIONAL BUILDERS CO., INC. #11 Freemont Arcade Bldg., Shaw Blvd., Pasig City	Binglong He	Plumbing Supervisor
KAIKWONG INTERNATIONAL BUILDERS CO., INC. #11 Freemont Arcade Bldg., Shaw Blvd., Pasig City	Zhanfeng Fu	Plumbing Technician
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KAIKWONG INTERNATIONAL BUILDERS CO., INC. #11 Freemont Arcade Bldg., Shaw Blvd., Pasig City	Wai Yan Leong	Project Engineer
KAIKWONG INTERNATIONAL BUILDERS CO., INC. #11 Freemont Arcade Bldg., Shaw Blvd., Pasig City	Fujian Zhu	Plumbing Technician

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

The DOLE conducts free seminar on Labor-Human Relations and Productivity. For more information, please call 336-2013 & 303-8026.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI–June 16, 2007)

METROBRIEFS

Timber firm exec dead in ambush

A 70-YEAR-OLD executive of a timber company was killed in an ambush several blocks away from the Caloocan City police headquarters on Thursday evening. According to a report of SP03 Antonio Paras, Luzon Mahogany Timber Co. manager Jose Valenzuela and Richmond Ng were attacked in front of the London Technology School at the back of the Caloocan City police headquarters. Ng, who narrowly escaped death, is the son of Manuel Ng, a board director of the Philippine Wood Producers Association. The pair were on board a Starex van. With Ng at the wheel, on their way to their office at Edison Street University Hills Subdivision at around 5:30 p.m, when two armed men on board a motorcycle fired at them. Valenzuela, who was seated in the passenger seat of the vehicle, was shot in the face while Ng was unharmed. The executive was declared dead on arrival at the Manila Central University hospital at around 6:15 p.m. According to the report, the victims were about to enter University Hill Subdivision when they were attacked. According to witnesses, the suspects were on board a motorcycle that had no license and had a "for registration " sign attached to the rear of their vehicle. "We had received information that the executive was the target of an ambush because of death threats he had been getting since last month," an investigator, who asked not to be named because he was not authorized to speak on the matter, told the INQUIRER. He added that they are looking into several angles in an effort to establish the motive of the killing. A police source said that they have several leads on the suspects, including the alleged mastermind, but were not at liberty to divulge these because it could jeopardize ongoing operations.

Nancy Carvajal

'Paistaran 2007' for students

RECOGNIZING the potency of the Arts, the Inizio Multimedia Advertising (IMA) is scheduled to hold a cultural competition in partnership with the Department of Education, titled "Paistaran 2007" from Sept. 21-22 at Crossroad 77, Mother Ignacia Street, Quezon City. High school students from 30 schools (15 from the private sector and the other 15 from the public sector) are set to showcase their artistic competence and creativity in the performing arts in a healthy competition to be overseen by the DepEd. IMA is headed by Alejandro "Alex" Tarca, publisher of Stile Di Vita, a lifestyle magazine and general manager of Boses Training and Recording Studio (BRTS). "Paistaran 2007" is being presented with the cooperation of local government units. For more information, please call Mark Nanez at 817-5847 or 0915-5647358.

Benefit concert on June 19

THE PUBLIC is invited to watch "Musikalusugan," a benefit concert intended to raise funds for the community-based Alternative Medicine Training Program of the Philippine Center for Traditional and Alternative Medicine (PCTAM). The concert will be held at the Conspiracy Cafe on Visayas Avenue, Quezon City, from 9 p.m. to midnight on Tuesday, June 19. Featured artists who are scheduled to perform at the event include Cynthia Alexander, Joey Ayala, Bayang Barrios, Heber Bartolome, Cookie Chua, Aba Dalena, Ricky Davao, Mon David, Susan Fernandez, Dyords Javier, Arthur Manuntag, Willie Nep, Joel Saracho, Girl Valencia and Mike Villegas, with Ferdie Borja on keyboards.

A boy with great powers

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE FEARS AMONG ARMED Forces top brass that Senator-elect Antonio Trillanes IV will use his power to get back at them are not unfounded.

Trillanes will wield that power like a boy with a new toy. At 35, Trillanes is still a boy who wants to play hard.

When he was still in the service, the Navy lieutenant (equivalent to captain in the Army) was the subject of a complaint for oppression.

Adreean Dejager, a Dutch network engineer, and his wife, Ana Santarin, claimed that Trillanes seized their Quezon City property and used its basement as a hiding place for ammunition and explosives.

The incident took place a month after the failed Oakwood mutiny in July 2003, according to the couple.

The couple alleged that Trillanes misrepresented himself as a businessman and used his influence with the police to eject them and file fabricated charges against them.

Look, the guy is not even a cop—he's just a Navy officer with no power over civilians—but he allegedly pushed his weight around.

If he was abusive even when he didn't have power, how much more when he is a full-fledged senator?

Trillanes might play god.

* * *

While he was denouncing the alleged corruption in the Armed Forces in the procurement of supplies for soldiers during the Oakwood mutiny, Trillanes didn't bat an eyelash.

A military officer who listened to his tirade said, "Hey, isn't that the son of (the name of his mother)? Why is he denouncing the corruption when his mother is part of the system?"

Trillanes' mother sold supplies to the AFP. She must have known officers and rank-and-file soldiers who received bribes in the course of business.

Trillanes' fellow Oakwood mutineers' complaints against the AFP were understandable. They fought in the field with their soldiers. Those captains and lieutenants knew the sacrifices privates, corporals and sergeants go through fighting Moro and communist rebels. But Trillanes was never a field officer since he was in the Navy. He didn't even command a small ship.

He was made leader of the mutinous group because he talked well. Other than that, Trillanes didn't have the ascendancy to lead this idealistic group of young officers who wanted a short-cut to the military way of handling grievances.

* * *

Trillanes has made history by winning a seat in the Senate while being detained on coup charges.

He will also probably be the first elected senator who will hold office inside prison until his term expires.

All the odds are stacked up against Trillanes' innocence for that mutiny that caused the economy to decline.

If the military court finds him not guilty on account of his having been elected to high office, we might as well scrap the justice system and let the voters decide on the guilt or innocence of an accused.

* * *

Conversation between an influential person (IP) and a newly appointed official (NAO) tasked with going after bad elements:

IP: *Pare*, congratulations on your new job.

NAO: Thank you, Sir.

IP: By the way, lay off (name of bad guy). He's my boy.

NAO: But Sir, Ma'am said not to spare anybody in my campaign against bad elements.

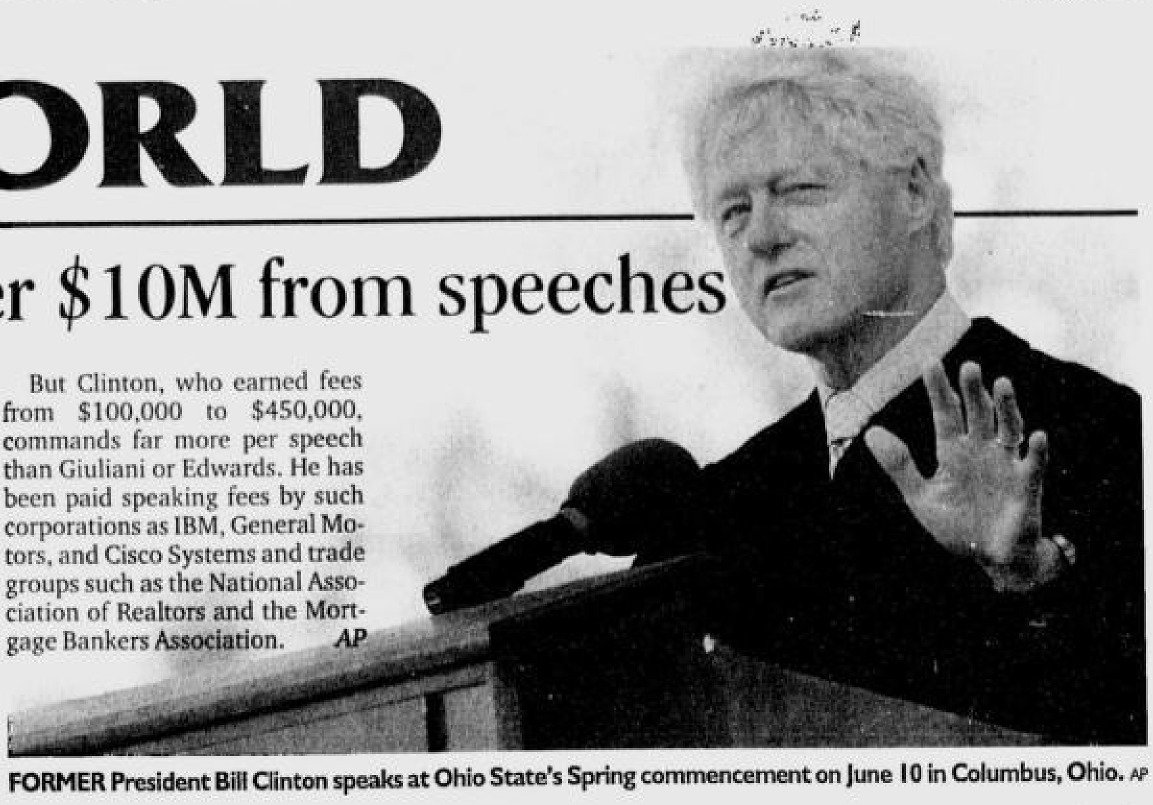
IP: Oh, don't worry, I'll take care of Ma'am.

This conversation really took place. Some words were changed to protect the newly appointed official.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Talk is not cheap: Clinton makes over $10M from speeches



FORMER President Bill Clinton speaks at Ohio State's Spring commencement on June 10 in Columbus, Ohio. AP

WASHINGTON—FORMER PRESIDENT Bill Clinton, who might someday be the first gentleman, traveled the globe last year and made more than $10 million giving speeches at corporate retreats, trade group gatherings and motivational venues.

The speaking engagements and their top-dollar fees were detailed in Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's Senate financial disclosure report, made public Thursday. The report showed that the former president and his presidency-seeking wife had assets of at least $10 million, but could have as much as $50 million with no liabilities.

When it comes to family affluence, the reports show that the New York senator is the wealthiest of all members of Congress seeking the presidency. Among all presidential candidates, however, Republican Mitt Romney, the former Massachusetts governor, stands alone with assets of between $190 million and $250 million. Republican Rudy Giuliani and Democrat John Edwards have each reported assets of about $30 million.

The former president was particularly popular abroad. During one four-day stretch last September, he was in England, Ireland, South Africa, Germany and Denmark. The trip yielded $1.74 million in speaking fees.

Clinton's speech income, while lucrative, is hardly unusual among politicians. Giuliani, in a financial disclosure report filed last month, reported grossing $11.4 million for speeches last year. Edwards said he made $395,000 in paid speeches, mostly at colleges.

But Clinton, who earned fees from $100,000 to $450,000, commands far more per speech than Giuliani or Edwards. He has been paid speaking fees by such corporations as IBM, General Motors, and Cisco Systems and trade groups such as the National Association of Realtors and the Mortgage Bankers Association. *AP*

US senators rescue immigration bill

WASHINGTON—DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN leaders on Thursday agreed on a deal to rescue a crippled overhaul of US immigration laws, which would offer a path to citizenship for 12 million illegal immigrants.

The bill, one of President George W. Bush's last hopes for a signature domestic achievement in his second term, collapsed in the Senate last week, against stiff opposition from conservative Republicans.

"We met this evening with several of the senators involved in the immigration bill negotiations," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and his Republican counterpart Sen. Mitch McConnell said in a joint statement.

"Based on that discussion, the immigration bill will return to the Senate floor after completion of the energy bill."

That timeline would mean the bill would be unlikely to return to the Senate before the end of next week at the earliest.

The deal was reached after hours of intense talks between senators who framed the original "grand bargain" to grant a path to legal status to illegal immigrants, strengthen border enforcement and initiate a low-wage guest-worker program.

The sweeping overhaul would also replace the current family-dominated immigration system with a merit-based points formula and attempt to cut a huge backlog for permanent resident green card applicants.

The breakthrough came hours after Bush backed a $4.4-billion burst of immediate spending to secure US borders, in a bid to revive the moribund bill.

The two Senate leaders did not provide any details of the plan. However, sources close to the negotiators earlier said that it would include the chance for members to offer up to 20 amendments to the legislation.

It was not clear if the deal would be sufficient to appease conservative Republicans who have vowed to bring the measure down, branding it an "amnesty" for those who have entered the United States illegally.

Reid pulled the legislation from Senate floor last week, when it failed to attract the 60 votes needed to end debate and move to a final vote.

He said he would only bring it back when Republicans provided assurances that they had the required votes to force the measure through, pointing out that 80 percent of Democrats in the chamber already backed it.

Currently, Democrats have 49 members in the 100-seat Senate, and can usually count on the votes of two independent senators.

Bush agreed to the extra funding two days after he heard a chorus of complaints from conservative Republicans who said the current bill did not do enough to secure US borders. *AFP*

Caregivers needed as US boomers near retirement

NEW YORK—AS THE HUGE US baby boomer generation surges toward retirement age, an unsettling issue grows ever more pressing: Finding the work force to tend to the millions of people who will someday need ongoing care because of physical and mental frailties.

Alarm is spreading across the health-care sector in the face of stark demographics.

There will be an enormous increase in America's elderly population in the next few decades, while the traditional labor pool for caregivers—women from their mid-20s to mid-50s—will scarcely grow at all, compounding problems for a work force already beset by low wages and high turnover.

Federal statistics suggest that roughly three million people work in direct-care jobs, mainly with the elderly, as nursing assistants, home health aides and personal care aides. Experts project there will be demand for nearly one million more of these workers in the next decade, and perhaps a total of three million more by 2030—when all surviving members of the 78 million-strong post-war baby-boomer generation are older than 65.

Direct-care workers "are the hands, voice and face of long-term care for millions of elders," said Steven Dawson, president of the New York-based Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute.

"And yet, the long-term care system has simply presumed that an endless supply of workers will always be available to transfer our mothers from bed to wheelchair, or to feed our fathers, no matter how little we pay these workers, or how poorly we supervise them, or whether we even have the decency to offer them health insurance."

Wages for these jobs, as of 2005, averaged less than $10 per hour, and a quarter of the work force had no health insurance. Groups advocating for better compensation were stunned this week when the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the nation's one million home-care workers are not entitled to overtime pay under federal law.

The ruling "underscores how unprepared we are to care for the millions of seniors who will want to live at home instead of institutions," said Gerry Hudson, a vice president of the Service Employees International Union. "If we are to avert a home-care crisis, we must invest in living wages and health-care coverage."

Hudson acknowledges that care-giving differs from most industries—strikes would be a desperate last resort because of the potential harm to elderly clients, and there is some common cause with employers on the need for broad changes in how America finances long-term care.

Some states are providing health coverage for uninsured caregivers. Community colleges, with funds from state agencies and the Labor Department, are beefing up training programs for home-care workers. Vermont is experimenting with a Choices for Care program in which it pays any caregiver—including a friend or relative—$10 an hour to tend to an elderly person who might otherwise be forced to a nursing home.

The nursing home industry has distinct labor problems of its own, with close to 100,000 vacancies for nurses and nursing aides, and an annual turnover rate of 70 percent as some nurses quit the profession and others take higher-paying jobs at hospitals. *AP*

Hamas overruns Gaza as Abbas sacks gov't

A HAMAS fighter poses in Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' personal office after fighters captured it in Gaza on June 15. REUTERS

GAZA CITY—HAMAS SEIZED full control of the Gaza Strip early Friday after days of ferocious gun battles, hours after Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas sacked the government and declared a state of emergency.

Masked Hamas fighters overran all security strongholds of Abbas' rival Fatah faction across the territory, where at least 113 people have been killed in less than a week in an explosion of bloodshed.

The takeover of Gaza effectively split the Palestinians into two, with Hamas—considered a terror outfit by the EU, Israel and the United States—in charge of the Gaza Strip and Fatah retaining control over the West Bank.

"All of the headquarters of the security services in the Gaza Strip are under control of the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, including the presidency," Abu Obeida, a spokesperson for Hamas's armed wing, said.

Fatah-linked gunmen responded by urging Abbas to declare martial law and called for their fighters to mobilize in the West Bank and consider any Hamas member an "outlaw."

Abbas announced Thursday the dismissal of the 3-month-old government and declared a state of emergency in Gaza and the occupied West Bank over what he called a "military coup." In a decree read by his presidential secretary general, Abbas said he made the move "because of the criminal war in the Gaza Strip, the taking over of the security services of the Palestinian Authority, the military coup and the armed rebellion by outlaws."

But Hamas immediately dismissed the declaration as "practically worthless" and later announced it was in control of all Fatah-linked security bases in Gaza, including Abbas' sprawling seafront presidential compound.

Abbas's announcement ended a fractious power-sharing accord between his secular Fatah party and the rival Islamist Hamas, locked for months in a deadly feud that has seen more than 260 people killed since December.

Abbas also appointed an emergency cabinet and will call for new elections "as soon as the situation allows," presidency secretary general Tayeb Abdelrahim said.

Under the Palestinian basic law, the emergency government does not require approval from the parliament which has been dominated by Hamas since January 2006, when it routed long-dominant Fatah in polls.

The sacked prime minister Ismail Haniya said Hamas would not declare a "state" in Gaza and called Abbas's move to fire the cabinet hasty. *AFP*

Macau officials confirm N. Korea funds transfer

HONG KONG—OFFICIALS IN Macau confirmed Thursday the transfer of more than $20 million in North Korean assets from one of the territory's banks, paving the way for Pyongyang to honor its pledge to disarm.

Macau finance minister Francis Tam Pak Yuen "confirmed that Banco Delta Asia has, according to the instruction of its North Korean client, transferred more than $20 million out of Macau," a government statement said.

Tam did not disclose where the funds had been sent, the statement added.

A Macau government spokesperson contacted by AFP was unable to say whether the full amount had been transferred, and a US spokesperson could not confirm that the transfer had been completed.

North Korea has repeatedly refused to implement a six-party deal reached in February under which it agreed to dismantle its nuclear program until it receives all $25 million from the troubled Macau bank.

The funds were frozen in 2005 when the United States blacklisted BDA on suspicion it was handling the proceeds of North Korean money-laundering and counterfeiting.

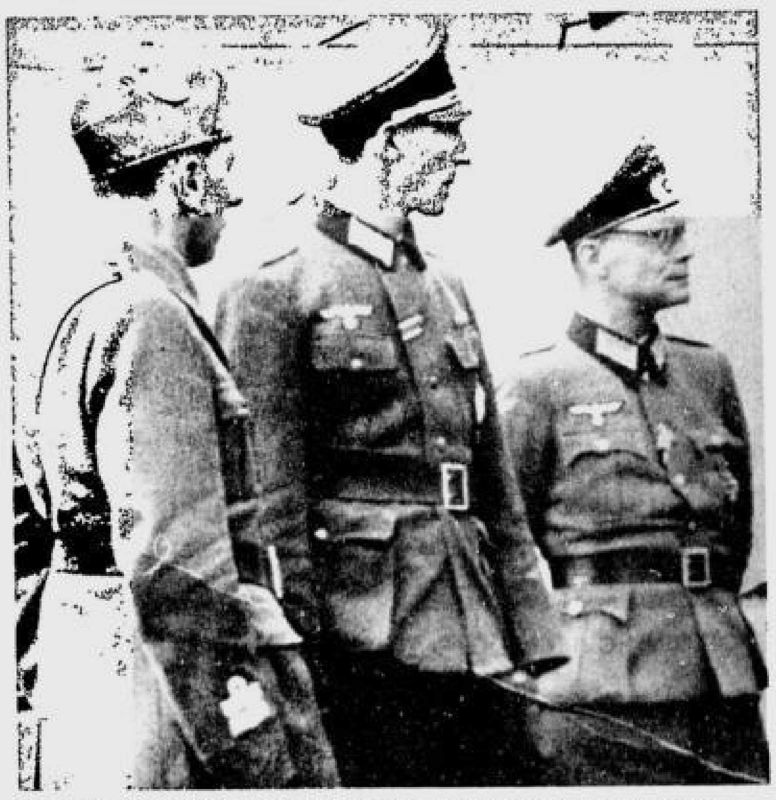
Negotiators from the six countries party to the agreement—North and South Korea, China, Japan, Russia and the United States—have spent months trying to resolve the banking dispute.

But few banks were willing to handle the disputed North Korean money for fear of sullying their own reputations.

"I would expect that if the transfer is completed, then some or all of those parties will have something to say about it," said State Department spokesperson Sean McCormack.

"All I can say is that the North Koreans have said that they would like to see all the $25 million transferred. This is an issue that we, the US government have been working on," he added. *AFP*

Scandal-tainted former UN head Waldheim; 88



THIS May 22, 1943 photo released by the World Jewish Congress shows former UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, center, in a Nazi uniform at an airstrip in Podgorica, Yugoslavia. AP

WALDHEIM in Nov. 4, 1970 photo.

VIENNA—KURT WALDHEIM, THE former UN secretary general and president of Austria whose reputation was tarnished by revelations over his Nazi past, died Thursday at the age of 88, his family said.

The former statesman suffered a heart attack in May and had been ailing ever since. He left a Vienna hospital last week and died surrounded by his family.

Waldheim was UN chief from 1972 until 1981 and then president of Austria from 1986 to 1992, when he was at the center of an international storm over his wartime links to a Nazi militia.

His denials of any wrongdoing failed to stop him becoming a virtual outcast on the international diplomatic stage, although he remained a noted figure back home.

Following news of Waldheim's death Thursday, Austrian politicians mourned the passing of a "great Austrian" and "statesman of worldwide renown" who raised the profile of his small country.

Waldheim also brought international prestige to Vienna, especially in his time as UN secretary general, during which the Austrian capital became home to UN headquarters.

Whether Waldheim would be given a state funeral had yet to be decided on Thursday afternoon.

Waldheim was elected president in June 1986 but his victory turned sour following reports that he knew of, even if he did not participate in, Nazi war crimes while a young lieutenant in the Balkans. *AFP*

Microsoft enables consumers to live out their passions with Nationwide Promo

Microsoft Philippines continues to blaze the trail as far as enhancing the digital lifestyle of consumers and business users are concerned.

In its effort to bring techno-savvy living to consumers, Microsoft is having the Windows Vista Now Possible nationwide raffle promo. From June 16 to July 31, customers who purchase Windows Vista products from accredited Microsoft resellers are entitled to join the promo. Every P5,000 worth of purchase of Microsoft products will earn one raffle coupon. Customers who join the promo will have the chance to win any of the four showcases packed with the latest technologies including HP laptops or desktops, Wireless Microsoft keyboards, Windows Vista software, Canon printers, Internet subscriptions, 2007 Microsoft Office system and a lot more. All these will enable the winner to live out his passion - be it in music and gadgets, work, family and school.

"Microsoft is bringing tools that will equip the consumers for the digital decade - where more powerful results can be made easier and faster. The showcases that we are raffling off will allow users to enjoy the digital lifestyle - enabling them to enjoy a myriad of things that they are passionate about like music, memories, movies, games, education, productivity and communication at home or in the office," enthused Ivan Franco, Consumer Marketing Manager, Microsoft Philippines.

The grand draw of the nationwide raffle promo is slated on August 30, 2007. The list of winners will be notified via registered mail.

Microsoft is delivering on the promise of providing not only software, but tools for empowerment and realization of one's passions. Recently, Microsoft unveiled the Microsoft Digital House last March at SM Mall of Asia, which marked the beginning of the Digital House Tour. The Digital House Tour is a series of roadshows in different malls showcasing the use of Microsoft technology, specifically Windows Vista and the 2007 Microsoft Office system, as tools that empower home and business users to realize their passions and enhance their lifestyle based on their particular needs, wants and interests. Next stop will be at the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) Techno Madness Sale to be held at Glorietta Activity Center in Makati City from June 13 to July 1, 2007.

"The Digital House is a living example of how the latest technologies from Microsoft can enhance the user's lifestyle, making them more productive in the home, in the workplace or even on the go. The Digital House tour gives us the opportunity to introduce our technology to the consumers who were not able to experience it in our previous roadshow," said Franco.

The Digital House is a scaled down version of a contemporary Filipino home enclosed in glass walls. Inside the house is a typical Filipino family demonstrating how Microsoft technology integrated at home enables them to enjoy a myriad of things that they are passionate about - like music, memories, movies, games, education, productivity and communication at home or in the office.

Aside from the Digital House, Microsoft is also making the computing experience accessible to the consumers with hands-on products experience centers situated in the activity area.

Microsoft partner retailers such as Silicon Valley, Villman, Complink, Accent Micro, PC Express and more will also participate in the BPI Techno Madness Sale, which will offer great deals for purchasing Windows Vista- capable PCs.

"We're excited to bring the latest technologies of Microsoft to the customers because we know that they are looking for products that are digital lifestyle-ready. We believe that the new products and technologies from Microsoft have features that will fit every computer users' lifestyle needs," shared Joel L. Pe, Chief Executive Officer, Silicon Valley.

Windows Vista™
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Imagine enjoying a digital lifestyle at your very own home!
Plus a special SMART BRO Wireless Broadband Internet freebie
See the fabulous prizes at the Windows Vista Digital House
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SAMSUNG
O2
play display
BPI TECHNO INSTALLMENT MADNESS
Microsoft

Check out these great prizes:

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- HP Pavillion Desktop Computer with genuine Windows Vista Ultimate
- Canon video camera
- Microsoft webcam
- Play & Display home entertainment rack
- 1 month free SmartBro subscription

Music & Gadgets Showcase
- O2 Graphite Phone
- HP Laptop with genuine Windows Vista Home Premium
- Canon digital camera
- Canon photo printer
- Microsoft webcam
- Play & Display CD rack
- 1 month free SmartBro subscription

School Showcase
- HP Desktop with genuine Windows Vista Starter and 2007 Microsoft Office System Home & Student Edition
- Canon All-In-One printer
- Encarta 2007
- Play & Display computer table
- 1 month free SmartBro subscription

Work Showcase
- O2 Stealth Phone
- HP Tablet PC with genuine Windows Vista Ultimate and 2007 Microsoft Office System
- Microsoft wireless laptop mouse
- Canon All-In-One printer
- Play & Display Home and Office Desk
- 1 month free SmartBro subscription

Plus a special SMART BRO freebie with every purchase of a participating promo item!*

*Get 1 month free when you avail of a 1-year subscription or get 3 months free when you avail of a 2-year subscription.

Simply buy any of the following for your chance to win:

PC OPTIONS	WINDOWS VISTA BOXED LICENSED SOFTWARE	2007 MICROSOFT OFFICE SYSTEM BOXED LICENSE SOFTWARE
STARTER OPTION	HOME BASIC	HOME & STUDENT 2007
GOOD OPTION	HOME PREMIUM	STANDARD 2007
BETTER OPTION	BUSINESS	SMALL BUSINESS 2007
BEST OPTION	ULTIMATE	PROFESSIONAL 2007

Promo Mechanics:

1. Buy any of the following participating promo items between June 16 to July 31, 2007 from any accredited Microsoft reseller nationwide
   a. Specially assembled PCs with genuine Windows Vista
   b. Genuine Windows Vista and 2007 Microsoft Office System Boxed Licensed Software
2. Every P5,000 purchase entitles customer to one (1) raffle coupon. Amount will be rounded off to the nearest thousand
3. Fill up the raffle coupon/s with your name, address and contact details and drop in drop boxes located inside the stores.
4. Deadline for submission of entries is at store closing time on July 31, 2007.
5. Raffle draw will be held on August 30, 2007 at the Microsoft office, 16/F, 6750 Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City.
6. Four (4) winners will be drawn. Each winner will receive one (1) digital lifestyle showcase for free!
7. A participant can win only once. If a name wins more than once, he gets the bigger prize.
8. 20% tax for prizes exceeding P10,000.00 shall be paid by Microsoft Phils.
9. Winners will be notified via registered mail. Winners may claim their prizes at the Microsoft office within 60 days of receipt of notice. Winners must present letter of notification plus one (1) valid ID.
10. All employees of Microsoft Phils., its advertising agencies, resellers and their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity and affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.

Promo Period: June 16 to July 31, 2007

See the fabulous prizes at the Windows Vista Digital House on June 13 to July 1 at the BPI Techno Installment Madness, Glorietta Activity Center

www.nowpossible.ph/promo

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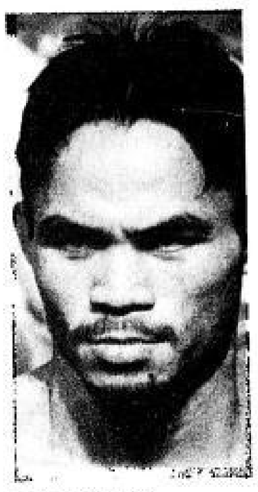
Dougherty grabs US Open lead; Tiger lurking /A26

CRUCIAL WEEKEND

It's good or bust for Pacman



PACQUIAO

By Recah Trinidad and Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

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A court-ordered mediation has been set for Saturday.

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Salud, who arrived Wednesday morning from

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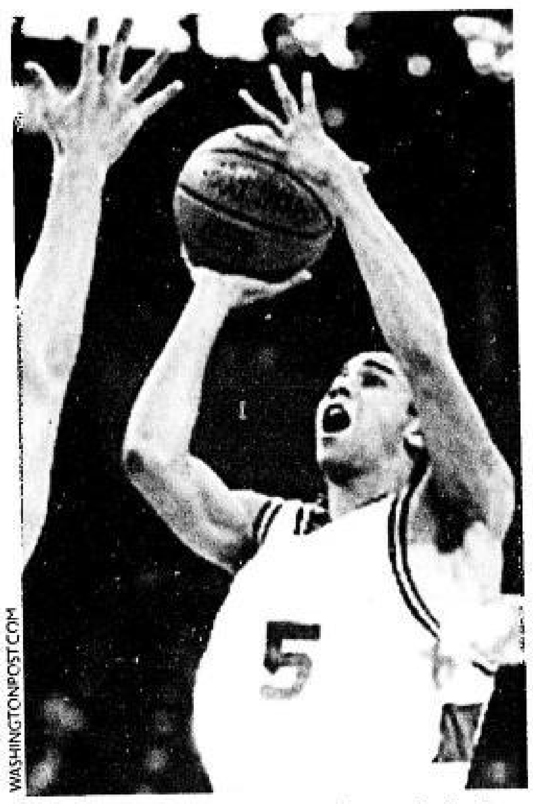

WASHINGTONPOST.COM

FIL-AM Gabe Norwood, seen here playing for George Mason U in the 2005-2006 US NCAA season, easily gets into the swim of RP system.

RP cagers praised; N'wood big in debut

BELGRADE—JUST ONE GAME AGAINST formidable opposition and Gabe Norwood appeared good as advertised.

After meeting up with the rest of the San Miguel-RP Team at Heathrow airport in London Wednesday, Norwood helped the Nationals in a 97-79 victory over Mega Ishrana of the Serbian First Division the following day that kicked off the team's European sojourn.

The 6-foot-6 point guard out of George Mason University scored nine points, had five rebounds and three assists in 26 minutes of action.

The big point: he was on the floor when the Filipinos established control late in the first period.

After the victory, coach Chot Reyes promptly asked the rest of the team to help make Norwood feel at home.

'Help him out'

"Let's get Gabe into the swim of our system quickly," Reyes told his players. "Help him out."

The Serbian club team played without its import, James Holmes, and top players Milovan Rakovic and Markovic Miloslav. But that didn't mean the towering squad was easy picking for the Philippines.

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The Nationals earned both praise and advice from legendary Serbian coach Vlade Djurovic, a former national mentor.

"You are much better than I thought," he said. "You move well, and you show a good understanding of the game."

Things to work on

"But three things you must work on: One, do not give openings on defense; two, big guys must learn to score against bigger defenders; and three, outside shooting must improve. In Serbia, nobody shoots five out of five 3-pointers, but nobody makes one or two out of five either. Every top player here will make three or four out of five (shots) if left open from the outside."

With a report from Musong Castillo

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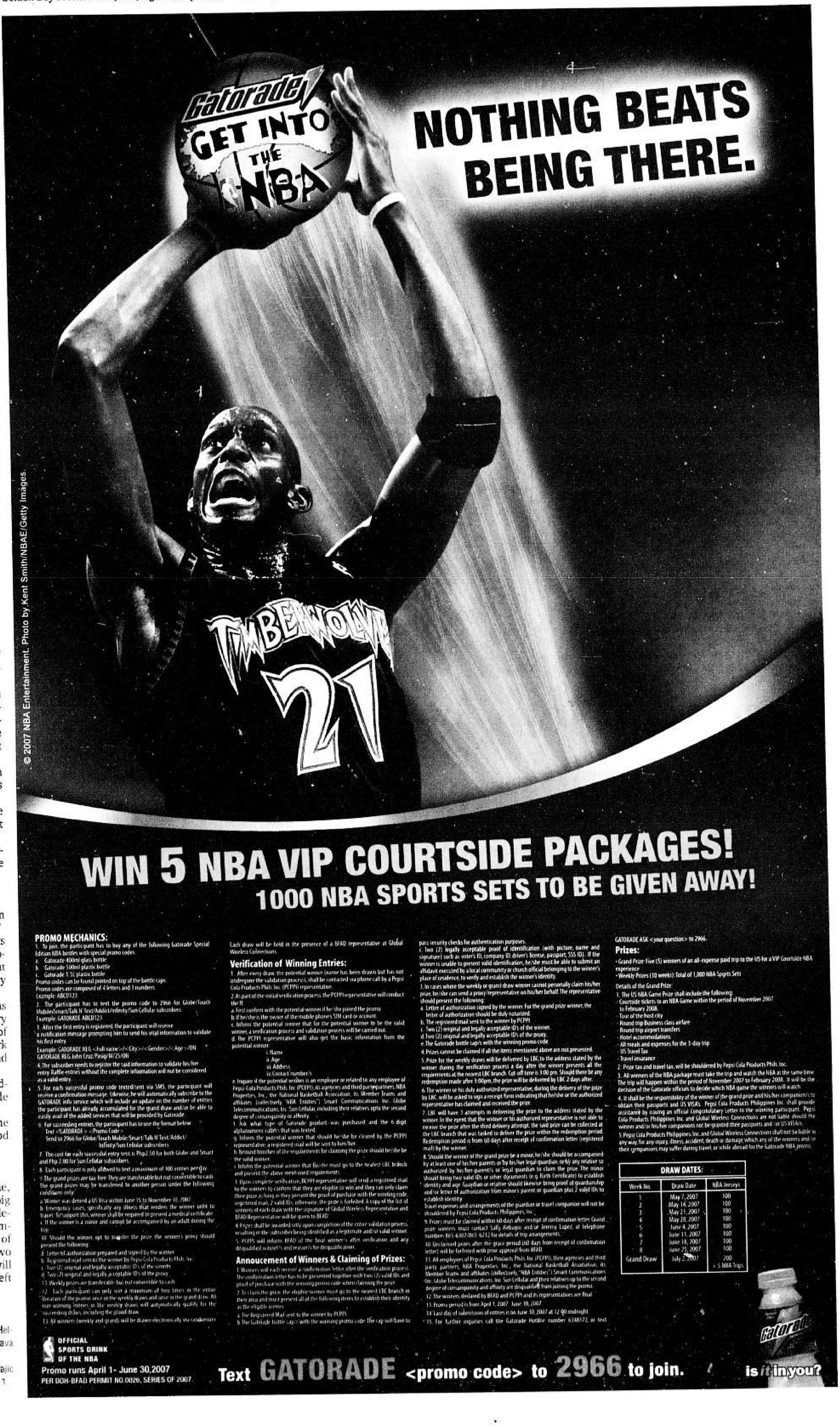
MEGA-ISHRANA 79—Pekovic 24, Dragicevic 23, Bajic 14, Ratkovica 8, Nikola 4, Ignjatovic 3, Opacic 2, Simic 1

Quarters: 29-21, 49-37, 75-59, 97-79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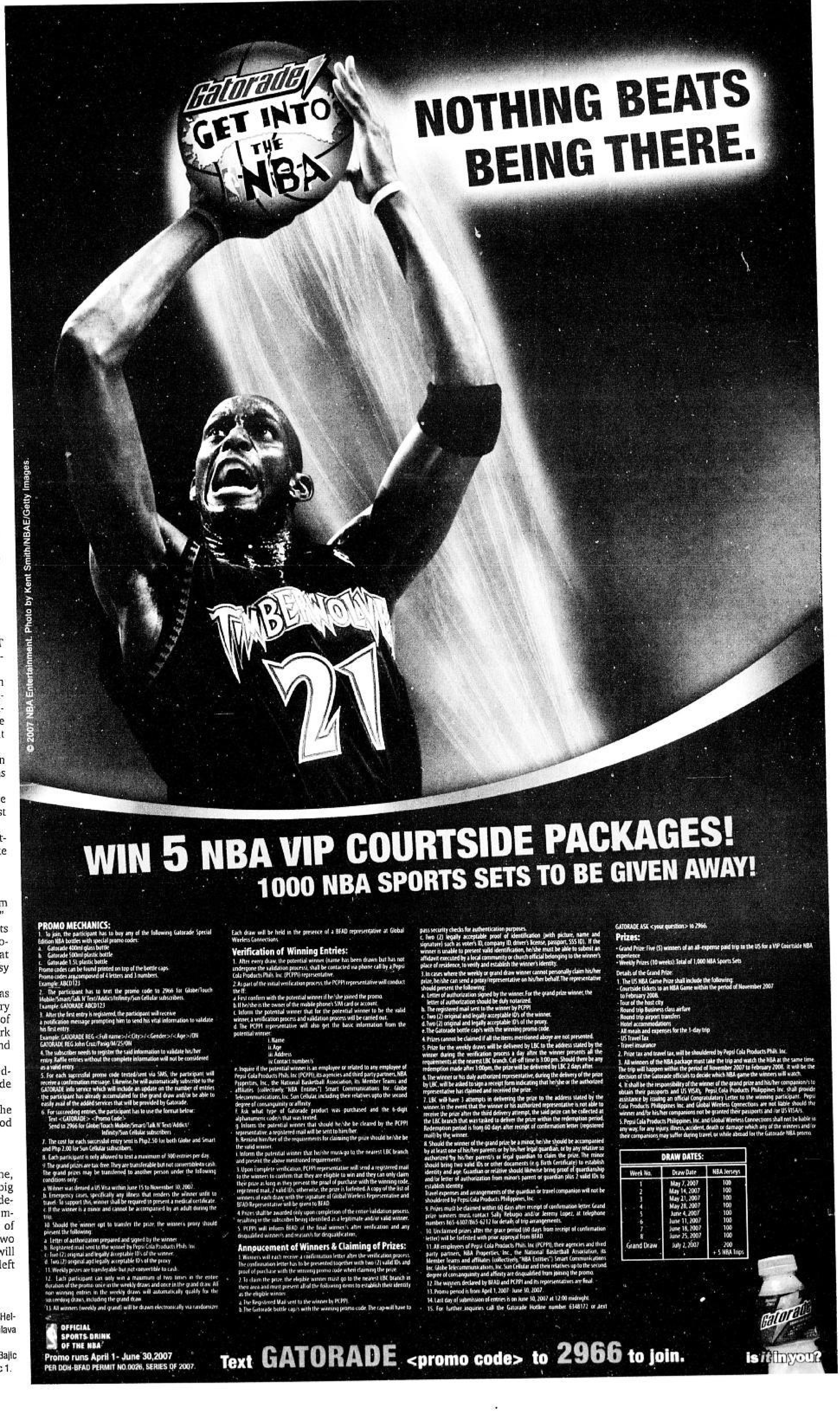

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PROMO MECHANICS:
1. To join, the participant has to buy any of the following Gatorade Special Edition NBA bottles with special promo codes:
a. Gatorade 400ml glass bottle
b. Gatorade 500ml plastic bottle
c. Gatorade 1.5L plastic bottle
Promo codes can be found printed on top of the bottle caps.
Promo codes are composed of 4 letters and 3 numbers.
Example: ABCD123
2. The participant has to text the promo code to 2966 for Globe/Touch Mobile/Smart/Talk N' Text/Addict/Infinity/Sun Cellular subscribers.
Example: GATORADE ABCD123
3. After the first entry is registered, the participant will receive a notification message prompting him to send his vital information to validate his first entry.
Example: GATORADE REG <Full name>/<City>/<Gender>/<Age>/ON
GATORADE REG John Cruz/Pasig/M/25/ON
4. The subscriber needs to register the said information to validate his/her entry. Raffle entries without the complete information will not be considered as a valid entry.
5. For each successful promo code texted/sent via SMS, the participant will receive a confirmation message. Likewise, he will automatically subscribe to the GATORADE info service which will include an update on the number of entries the participant has already accumulated for the grand draw and/or be able to easily avail of the added services that will be provided by Gatorade.
6. For succeeding entries, the participant has to use the format below:
Text <GATORADE> <Promo Code>
Send to 2966 for Globe/Touch Mobile/Smart/Talk N' Text/Addict/Infinity/Sun Cellular subscribers
7. The cost for each successful entry sent is Php2.50 for both Globe and Smart and Php 2.00 for Sun Cellular subscribers.
8. Each participant is only allowed to text a maximum of 900 entries per day.
9. The grand prizes are tax-free. They are transferable but not convertible to cash. The grand prizes may be transferred to another person under the following conditions only:
a. Winner was denied a US Visa within June 15 to November 10, 2007.
b. Emergency cases, specifically any illness that renders the winner unfit to travel. To support this, winner shall be required to present a medical certificate.
c. If the winner is a minor and cannot be accompanied by an adult during the trip.
10. Should the winner opt to transfer the prize, the winners proxy should present the following:
a. Letter of authorization prepared and signed by the winner
b. Registered mail sent to the winner by Pepsi Cola Products Phils. Inc.
c. Two (2) original and legally acceptable ID's of the winner.
d. Two (2) original and legally acceptable ID's of the proxy
11. Weekly prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash.
12. Each participant can only win a maximum of two times in the entire duration of the promo once in the weekly draws and once in the grand draw. All non-winning entries in the weekly draws will automatically qualify for the succeeding draws, including the grand draw.
13. All winners (weekly and grand) will be drawn electronically via randomizer. Each draw will be held in the presence of a BFAD representative at Global Wireless Connections.

Verification of Winning Entries:
1. After every draw, the potential winner (name has been drawn but has not undergone the validation process), shall be contacted via phone call by a Pepsi Cola Products Phils. Inc. (PCPPI) representative.
2. As part of the initial verification process, the PCPPI representative will conduct the ff:
a. First confirm with the potential winner if he/she joined the promo.
b. If he/she is the owner of the mobile phone's SIM card or account.
c. Inform the potential winner that for the potential winner to be the valid winner, a verification process and validation process will be carried out.
d. The PCPPI representative will also get the basic information from the potential winner:
i. Name
ii. Age
iii. Address
iv. Contact number/s
e. Inquire if the potential winner is an employee or related to any employee of Pepsi Cola Products Phils. Inc (PCPPI), its agencies and third party partners, NBA Properties, Inc., the National Basketball Association, its Member Teams and affiliates (collectively "NBA Entities") Smart Communications Inc. Globe Telecommunications, Inc. Sun Cellular, including their relatives upto the second degree of consanguinity or affinity.
f. Ask what type of Gatorade product was purchased and the 6-digit alphanumeric code/s that was texted.
g. Inform the potential winner that should he/she be cleared by the PCPPI representative, a registered mail will be sent to him/her.
h. Remind him/her of the requirements for claiming the prize should he/she be the valid winner.
i. Inform the potential winner that he/she must go to the nearest LBC branch and present the above mentioned requirements.
3. Upon complete verification, PCPPI representative will send a registered mail to the winners to confirm that they are eligible to win and they can only claim their prize as long as they present the proof of purchase with the winning code, registered mail, 2 valid IDs, otherwise, the prize is forfeited. A copy of the list of winners of each draw with the signature of Global Wireless Representative and BFAD Representative will be given to BFAD.
4. Prizes shall be awarded only upon completion of the entire validation process, resulting in the subscriber being identified as a legitimate and/or valid winner.
5. PCPPI will inform BFAD of the final winner/s after verification and any disqualified winner/s and reason/s for disqualification.

Annoucement of Winners & Claiming of Prizes:
1. Winners will each receive a confirmation letter after the verification process. The confirmation letter has to be presented together with two (2) valid IDs and proof of purchase with the winning promo code when claiming the prize.
2. To claim the prize, the eligible winner must go to the nearest LBC branch in their area and must present all of the following items to establish their identity as the eligible winner.
a. The Registered Mail sent to the winner by PCPPI.
b. The Gatorade bottle cap/s with the winning promo code. The cap will have to pass security checks for authentication purposes.
c. Two (2) legally acceptable proof of identification (with picture, name and signature) such as voter's ID, company ID, driver's license, passport, SSS ID). If the winner is unable to present valid identification, he/she must be able to submit an affidavit executed by a local community or church official belonging to the winner's place of residence, to verify and establish the winner's identity.
3. In cases where the weekly or grand draw winner cannot personally claim his/her prize, he/she can send a proxy/representative on his/her behalf. The representative should present the following:
a. Letter of authorization signed by the winner. For the grand prize winner, the letter of authorization should be duly notarized.
b. The registered mail sent to the winner by PCPPI
c. Two (2) original and legally acceptable ID's of the winner.
d. Two (2) original and legally acceptable ID's of the proxy.
e. The Gatorade bottle cap/s with the winning promo code.
4. Prizes cannot be claimed if all the items mentioned above are not presented.
5. Prize for the weekly draws will be delivered by LBC to the address stated by the winner during the verification process a day after the winner presents all the requirements at the nearest LBC branch. Cut-off time is 3:00 pm. Should there be any redemption made after 3:00pm, the prize will be delivered by LBC 2 days after.
6. The winner or his duly authorized representative, during the delivery of the prize by LBC, will be asked to sign a receipt form indicating that he/she or the authorized representative has claimed and received the prize.
7. LBC will have 3 attempts in delivering the prize to the address stated by the winner. In the event that the winner or his authorized representative is not able to receive the prize after the third delivery attempt, the said prize can be collected at the LBC branch that was tasked to deliver the prize within the redemption period. Redemption period is from 60 days after receipt of confirmation letter (registered mail) by the winner.
8. Should the winner of the grand prize be a minor, he/she should be accompanied by at least one of his/her parents or by his/her legal guardian, or by any relative so authorized by his/her parent/s or legal guardian to claim the prize. The minor should bring two valid IDs or other documents (e.g. Birth Certificate) to establish identity and age. Guardian or relative should likewise bring proof of guardianship and/or letter of authorization from minor's parent or guardian plus 2 valid IDs to establish identity.
Travel expenses and arrangements of the guardian or travel companion will not be shouldered by Pepsi Cola Products Philippines, Inc.
9. Prizes must be claimed within 60 days after receipt of confirmation letter. Grand prize winners must contact Sally Rebugio and/or Jeremy Lopez, at telephone numbers 865-6307/865-6212 for details of trip arrangements.
10. Unclaimed prizes after the grace period (60 days from receipt of confirmation letter) will be forfeited with prior approval from BFAD.
11. All employees of Pepsi Cola Products Phils. Inc (PCPPI), their agencies and third party partners, NBA Properties, Inc., the National Basketball Association, its Member Teams and affiliates (collectively, "NBA Entities") Smart Communications Inc. Globe Telecommunications, Inc. Sun Cellular and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity and affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
12. The winners declared by BFAD and PCPPI and its representatives are final.
13. Promo period is from April 1, 2007 - June 30, 2007.
14. Last day of submission of entries is on June 30, 2007 at 12:00 midnight.
15. For further inquiries call the Gatorade Hotline number 6348172 or text GATORADE ASK <your question> to 2966.

Prizes:
• Grand Prize: Five (5) winners of an all-expense paid trip to the US for a VIP Courtside NBA experience
• Weekly Prizes (10 weeks): Total of 1,000 NBA Sports Sets
Details of the Grand Prize:
1. The US NBA Game Prize shall include the following:
- Courtside tickets to an NBA Game within the period of November 2007 to February 2008.
- Tour of the host city
- Round trip Business class airfare
- Round trip airport transfers
- Hotel accommodations
- All meals and expenses for the 3-day trip
- US Travel Tax
- Travel insurance
2. Prize tax and travel tax, will be shouldered by Pepsi Cola Products Phils. Inc.
3. All winners of the NBA package must take the trip and watch the NBA at the same time. The trip will happen within the period of November 2007 to February 2008. It will be the decision of the Gatorade officials to decide which NBA game the winners will watch.
4. It shall be the responsibility of the winner of the grand prize and his/her companion/s to obtain their passports and US VISA/s. Pepsi Cola Products Philippines Inc. shall provide assistance by issuing an official Congratulatory Letter to the winning participant. Pepsi Cola Products Philippines Inc. and Global Wireless Connections are not liable should the winner and/or his/her companions not be granted their passports and /or US VISA/s.
5. Pepsi Cola Products Philippines, Inc. and Global Wireless Connections shall not be liable in any way, for any injury, illness, accident, death or damage which any of the winners and/or their companions may suffer during travel, or while abroad for the Gatorade NBA promo.

DRAW DATES:

Week No.	Draw Date	NBA Jerseys
1	May 7, 2007	100
2	May 14, 2007	100
3	May 21, 2007	100
4	May 28, 2007	100
5	June 4, 2007	100
6	June 11, 2007	100
7	June 18, 2007	100
8	June 25, 2007	100
Grand Draw	July 2, 2007	200 + 5 NBA Trips

OFFICIAL SPORTS DRINK OF THE NBA
Promo runs April 1 - June 30,2007
PER DOH-BFAD PERMIT NO.0026, SERIES OF 2007.

Text GATORADE <promo code> to 2966 to join.

World Series-bound softbelles face fund problems

By Cedelf Tupas

AFTER SWEEPING GUAM (3-0) YESterday to accomplish its mission on the field, the Bacolod Central Little League softbelles are faced with tougher challenge: where to source funds for their World Series campaign.

For now, of course, the Bacolod softbelles wanted to savor their triumph that once again underlined their excellence in the sport around the Asia-Pacific region.

"We want to celebrate first and think about it (financial requirements for the World Series) in the next few days," Bacolod coach Lagrimas Ciokon told the INQUIRER yesterday after the Bacoleñas shut out Guam, 13-0, in six innings to complete a sweep of their best-of-three series at the Rosario Sports Complex in Pasig City.

The Bacolod squad bombarded Guam with 12 hits, capped by two home runs, to follow up its 8-1 win in Game 1 Thursday.

Analie Benjamin did the damage on the mound and on the plate, pitching a no-hitter and striking out eight batters. She set the tone for yesterday's rout with a three-run homer in the opening inning.

Cherry Ann Basco struck a two-home runner to highlight a four-run burst in the fifth frame that prevented the match from going the full route.

Ciokon said she is waiting for an appointment with Little League Philippines president Serge Bernal to discuss the sourcing of funds for the World Series set Aug. 12-18 in Kirkland, Washington.

"It's a problem that hopefully we could settle as soon as possible so that the team can focus on training," Ciokon added.

She hinted that World Series organizers in Williamsport, Pennsylvania may extend a financial aid of $10,000 for the Bacolod team.

But this commitment has to yet be confirmed, she said.

The Bacolod contingent needs a total of P1.2 million for its airfare to the USA.

4 RP girls squads make the grade with aplomb

THERE WILL BE AN ALL-PHILIPPINE representation for Asia Pacific in this year's World Series girls softball championships.

Bacolod City blanked Guam, 14-0, to top the Junior League confined to players 13-14 years old, while Laguna drubbed China, 21-1, in the Senior League (14-16) at the Rosario Sports Complex in Pasig City yesterday.

The Bacoleños worked behind the no-hit, no-run effort of Analyn Benjamin to shut out the hapless Guamanians in five innings and earn the right to represent the region in the World Series slated Aug. 12-18 in Kirkland, Washington.

Laguna, which also needed only five frames to stop China, and two teams from the International Little League Association of Manila, will carry Asia Pacific's colors in the Senior League World Championship Aug. 5-11 in Lower Sussex, Delaware.

The Ilam Major League (11-12) campaigners also advanced to the World Series in their category by sweeping their best-of-three elimination series against Guam on Thursday. The World Series is set in Portland, Oregon.

Another Ilam team, the Big League (16-18), also qualified in its bracket without lifting a bat for lack of opponent. They will proceed to Kalamazoo, Michigan, for their side of the World Series. *Roy Luarca*

HARBOUR THREE-PEAT

Secret behind sweet sweep

By Jasmine W. Payo

THEY DID NOT HAVE TO BRING OUT the tested toughness or the rugged appetite in capturing another PBL championship.

No stranger to title tussles, Harbour Centre trooped to the league's biggest stage with a ready game plan.

And Batang Pier made it look easy in the last two games of the Unity Cup Finals as they swept the Cebuana Lhuillier-Pera Padala Moneymen, 3-0, for their third straight PBL crown.

"Everyone just delivered," said Harbour coach Jorge Gallent. "Our game plan was to pressure them and give them a hard time passing the ball. My usual worry that my players would relax, especially when we're up big, it never happened."

With a roster of amateur stars, Batang Pier shocked the top-seeded Moneymen with dominant performances from Jason Castro, Chico Lanete, Ryan Araña and JC Intal in the best-of-five championship series.

Still, Gallent could not conceal his surprise over the sweet sweep scored by Batang Pier, only the fifth team in the league to capture a Grand Slam.

"We really thought it would reach Game 5," Gallent admitted.

The back-to-back championship sweeps also exceeded team owner Mikee Romero's expectations.

"When we started this team, we never thought it would be this successful," said Romero. "The three-peat was just a dream. But I guess this is the strongest team we've formed. It's the team with the most individual superstars."

Of course, they were team stars who worked solidly together.

Castro, named Most Valuable Player for the second straight conference, showed he can stand out in any team and still lend shining moments to his teammates.

CONFERENCE MVP Jason Castro and Finals MVP Chico Lanete (right) celebrate with Harbour Centre owner Mikee Romero after their championship romp. At left, coach Jorge Gallent gets the traditional victory ride. INQUIRER PHOTO/ RYAN LIM

The fleet-footed guard, who bagged his first MVP title with Hapee, delivered clutch baskets in Game 1 (84-78) and helped set the tone for the routs in Games 2 and 3 (both 90-75) for a series-average of 14 points.

"I always want to help the team I'm in to win the championship," the 21-year-old Castro said in Filipino.

Chico Lanete, whose handprint is in Batang Pier's three title runs, again turned his offensive game up a notch in the Finals.

Like Castro, Lanete came out as a repeat Finals MVP winner after norming 17.3 points, including a series-high 22 markers in Game 2.

Even the Grand Slam was a second time for Gallent, a member of the Stag Pale Pilsen squad that clinched three straight titles in the mid-'90s.

"I'm happy that I did it as a player and I did it as a coach as well," he said.

But it seems the winners would never grow tired of repeating the feat.

"We've seen the maturity of the players this conference," said Romero. "Of course, the next goal is to win the four-peat."

Sprinkling of foreigners struts stuff in UAAP wars

By Jasmine W. Payo

A FLOCK OF FOREIGN-BRED PLAYERS IS SET to invade the 70th UAAP season which will be marked by the return of powerhouse La Salle.

The Green Archers will be back after a one-year suspension with a self-described "United Nations" squad.

"The UAAP tries to get better each year and we hope that it will do well this season now that we have the complete eight schools," said league president Fr. Ermito de Sagon of host University Santo Tomas during the Scoop sa Kamayan Forum yesterday.

La Salle will be fielding two foreigners—Serbian Marko Batricevic and Indonesian Ferdinand—along with rookies Fil-Bahraini Bader Malabes and Fil-Briton Simon Atkins.

Ateneo will also be parading Kirk Long, a golden-haired American recruit from Faith Academy.

"We have a rule that limits each team to two foreigners, but only one can play at a time," said De Sagon. "But there's no limit to Filipinos [with foreign roots]. The heart of it is the citizenship."

La Salle assistant coaches Tyrone Bautista and Joey Sta. Maria said the UAAP teams' training also went global.

"We didn't stop from training," said Sta. Maria, who attended the forum with veteran Fil-Chinese point guard TY Tang and Cholo Villanueva. "We went to Bahrain, Korea and Hawaii."

Defending champion UST Tigers also packed up for Malaysia over the summer, while Ateneo attended a training camp in the United States.

The league will fire off on July 7 with Ed Cordero—a former deputy of Ramon Fernandez in the defunct MBA—at the helm as commissioner.

La Salle will debut against the University of the Philippines at 2 p.m., followed by the Far Eastern and National University tussle at 4 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum. On July 8, Ateneo takes on Adamson at 2 p.m., while UST and University of the East clash at 4 p.m. at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Pacquiao-Soto '99.5% done'

By Salven L. Lagumbay,
Contributor

A BUSINESSMAN FROM VANcouver who coordinates with Top Rank's Bob Arum yesterday claimed a Manny Pacquiao-Humberto Soto clash is already "99.5 percent done."

The bout is slated to take place at the GM Place in Vancouver on Oct. 6.

"We've almost finalized it, it's 99.5 percent there," said Geoffrey Hughes in an interview with the daily The Province.

"He [Arum] is negotiating some last-minute items that don't have anything to do with me or with Vancouver. I'm anticipating that we'll be able to go with a firm announcement within the next few days."

Hughes said he is waiting "with bated breath" for Arum's definitive approval of the deal.

Soto was promptly proposed as Pacquiao's next foe after the Mexican knocked out the Pacman's younger brother Bobby in New York's Madison Square Garden last Sunday.

Bobby, who returned to Gen. Santos City yesterday, begged his handlers to give him a rematch against Soto but was instead advised by his mother, Dionisia, to consider quitting the ring.

According to Hughes, Pacquiao has a large following in Canada's Lower Mainland area, where over 100,000 Filipinos reside, and is hugely popular among fans living throughout Washington State.

"The more we looked at it [staging a fight] the more we realized it had to be somebody like Manny Pacquiao," said Hughes, who has businesses in the hospitality industry and real estate.

"To be involved with Manny Pacquiao is incredible."

With a report from Aquiles Z. Zonio, Inquirer Mindanao

Two more events lift RP wushu hopes

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE WUSHU IS NOT bout to pull its 1-2 punch in the Southeast Asian Games.

No less than Asian Games big shots Rene Catalan and Edward Folayang will be front and center of the RP team seeking to retain its title in the Thailand SEAG this December.

Wushu chief Julian Camacho yesterday said the addition of two more combat events—men's 65 kg sanshou and women's 60kg sanshou—could work wonders for the Philippines which scooped 11 gold medals two years ago.

"Actually, they didn't give us what we wanted," said Camacho, who lobbied for Folayang's event, men's 70kg, where he captured silver in the Asian Games last year and gold in the 2005 Manila SEAG.

CATALAN: Delaying retirement

That would leave him no choice but to field a "sure gold" like Folayang in the 65 kg, which Camacho, said won't be problem for the player.

On the other hand, Asiad champion Catalan is trying to delay his retirement and is expected to compete once more in a lighter category.

"We have players in all categories who are all good but are still lacking experience," said Camacho. "Of course, we need somebody with the status of Rene."

Catalan, Camacho said, might fight in the 52 kg, the class where he won the gold in Doha last year.

However, the country also has a bet in that class in Benjie Rivera who, if he plays convincingly in the training camp, might take the place and relegate the Asian champion to the 48 kg class.

SPORTSWATCH

SBP-Passerelle organizational meeting set

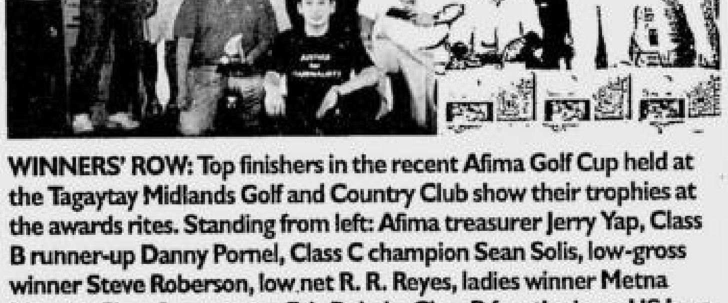
BEST CENTER WILL HOLD AN ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR THIS year's SBP/Passerelle basketball tournament on Monday at the Quezon City Sports Club. The meeting is set at 3 p.m. The nationwide inter-school cagefest is open to boys aged 9 to 14. La Salle Green Hills and San Beda topped last year's SBP and Passerelle competitions, respectively. Each team is required to field a minimum of five players who have undergone BEST Center training.

'Battle of Big Boys' 7-cocker fires off in Pasay

QUALITY FIGHTS SEEN ONLY IN INTERNATIONAL DERBIES SIZZLE AT the Pasay City Cockpit starting at 5 p.m. today in the "Battle Of The Big Boys" 7-cock derby. The 80-fight program is sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 and is presented by the National Cockers Association (NCA). The derby comes on the heels of last week's NCA International 8-Cock Derby won by Rizal sportsman Ronnie Puno with his Wild Wing Sundance entry. Puno banners today's tough cast that includes Patrick Antonio, Gerry Ramos, Jun Santiago, Gov. Ito Ynares, Pol Estrellado, Richard Bates, Pepito Ngo, Benjie Lim, Rep. Iggy Arroyo and Mayor Jesry Palmares. Entry fee is P220,000.

68 fights in Las Piñas derby today

LEADING COCKERS AND GAMEFOWL BREEDERS FROM METRO MANILA clash anew starting at 7 p.m. today in Las Pinas Coliseum's 3-cock derby. The 68-fight program is hosted by coliseum manager Alex Tobias and Rudy Sayaman, who are staking a cash prize of P350,000. Tobias also hosted a 3-cocker last April which drew 48 entries. Top rated bets will be fielded today by Ching Morales, Johnny Elorde, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Akim Albert, Larry Barbasa, Gerry Ramos, Roy Almaz, Angel Tenedero, Baldo Perez, Vice Mayor Henry Medina, Albert Samson, Narding Sarao, Otoy Abarsoza and Boy de Roca.



WINNERS' ROW: Top finishers in the recent Afima Golf Cup held at the Tagaytay Midlands Golf and Country Club show their trophies at the awards rites. Standing from left: Afima treasurer Jerry Yap, Class B runner-up Danny Pornel, Class C champion Sean Solis, low-gross winner Steve Roberson, low net R. R. Reyes, ladies winner Metna Manalo, Class A runner-up Eric Buhain, Class B fourth placer HS Jang, Class A third placer Jojo Yap, Class A fourth placer Ed Castillo, Class B champion Henry Go, Class C fourth placer Vic Bessat, Class B fourth placer David Ong. Seated from left: Class C fourth placer Tino Co, Afima president Benny Antiporda, Class A champion Abner Macapagal and Class C runner-up Philip Mendoza.

It's good or bust for Pacman

From page A23

Los Angeles, has advised Pacquiao to look at his career from a long-term perspective in terms of legacy and financial stability.

He singled out Pacquiao's last fight against the unheralded Jorge Solis which did not draw enough pay-per-view attention and earned Pacquiao only $2 million instead of the promised $5 million purse.

"He should look at his options with objectivity, taking into account his legacy in boxing as well as financial stability for life," said Salud.

Golden Boy has promotional rights over an army of fighters who can give Pacquiao the boxing legacy as well as the purse he rightfully deserves.

Among the fighters promoted by GBP are World Boxing Council 130-lb king Juan Manuel Marquez, the popular Marco Antonio Barrera, Dominican Republic's Joan Guzman and Argentinian Jorge Barrios.

Golden Boy also enjoys mutual cooperation with Asia's most influential promoter, Akihiko Honda, who promotes the unbeaten WBA super-featherweight boss Edwin Valero of Venezuela.

Meanwhile, Arum has also informed Boxing-confidential in an exclusive report that he is "ready to make total peace" in all disputes between Top Rank and GBP.

"What happens this coming weekend could change the whole Pacman situation," Arum said. "A settlement with Golden Boy, if it happens, opens up the whole picture. So we'll have to wait to see what happens in the mediation."

Del Rosario paces Thai jetski series

PETCHABURI, THAILAND—FILIPINO ACE Paul del Rosario inched closer toward becoming the first foreigner to clinch Thailand's Jetski Rider of the Year honors after wresting the overall lead three rounds through the accident-plagued 2007 Thailand National Tour.

Del Rosario only placed second to rookie Monthien Sirriwattanakul in the third round of the premier Superstock Pro 1200 Unlimited class, but it was enough to give him a five-point edge over top Thai campaigner Pranom Khuenjeng.

"Just one leg to go," said Del Rosario. "To become the first foreign Thai national jetski champ is a big feat, considering the Thais are second best to the Americans in the world jetski scene."

Del Rosario and Pranom entered the round with equal points, but the Thai reeled from the rough waters and ended third overall.

Moto One saw Del Rosario finishing third behind winner Ekachon Kingchansil and runner-up Pranom while in Moto Two, Del Rosario checked in behind Pranom and ahead of PraditBuri.

With Pranom ahead, Del Rosario was rammed by Thai actor Nakorn Silachai. The incident damaged the Filipino boat's left rear, broke the seat and the upper left portion of the hood and also left him with a sore thigh.

In the last lap, water found its way into Del Rosario's engine through the broken seat and he hobbled fourth behind Chaowalit Kuajaroon at the finish.

With too much water stalling his boat, Del Rosario slipped to seventh in the final race. He regained power five laps later after his motor finally burned the water absorbed in the engine.

He moved up to sixth after a Malaysian rider crashed and passed two other riders as he braced to overtake the third placer. But he dived too hard and left him settling for sixth.

"I was still disappointed because if I just relaxed and raced at a steady pace after passing three riders, I could have won the final race," said Del Rosario, who's being backed by Petron, Manila Cordage, Qualkysense, and Stoked Inc.

BUSTAMANTE: Share of the lead. PDI PHOTO

Django, Alex stretch World Summit runs

FRANCISCO "DJANGO" BUSTAMANTE, Alex Pagulayan and Warren Kiamco downed their third-round rivals yesterday to keep their share of the lead in the World Summit of Pool at the Riviera Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

The Filipino stalwarts matched the clean slates of five other bidders headed by reigning World 10-ball champion Shane Van Boening of the United States.

The 44-year-old Bustamante crushed Tyler Edey, 11-2, Jeff Kennedy, 11-5, and Tony Robles, 11-7, to forge a fourth round clash with Austin Murphy, winner over Mark Cantrill, 11-4, Oscar Dominguez, 11-5, and Walter Glass, 11-4.

Former world champion Pagulayan beat 2006 US Open winner John Schmidt, 11-7, Tony Chohan, 11-5, and Dave Hemmah, 11-7, to arrange a duel with Canadian John Morra, conqueror of Tim Hall, 11-6, Allen Hopkins, 11-7, and Mika Immonen, 11-8, respectively.

Immonen, the 2001 World Pool champ, beat Canada-based Filipino Edwin Montal, 11-3, in the opening round.

Kiamco routed Dennis Coulter, 11-1, Charlie Williams, 11-4, and Demetrius Jelatis, 11-4. The 36-year-old Cebuano is slated to face Stevie Moore, who beat Tommy Najar, 11-1, Filipino Dennis Orcollo, 11-8, and Jeremy Jones, 11-9.

Van Boening dumped US-based Filipino Danny Petralba, 11-3, Troy Frank, 11-5. and Lee Huewagen 11-7. Huewagen nipped legendary Filipino Jose Parica, 11-10, in the second round.

Another US-based Filipino, Al Lapena, upset compatriot Marlon Manalo, 11-4, but bowed to Salvas, 11-6, in the second round. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Gomez eliminates Yang

RISING FILIPINO STAR ROBERTO Gomez booted out former Asian 9-ball tour overall champion Taiwanese Yang Ching-shun, 9-2, to inch closer to the quarterfinal round of the 2007 Guinness 9-Ball Tour late Friday at the Genting Highlands in Malaysia.

Reigning Philippine champion Lee Vann Corteza and 2006 Doha Asian Games 9-ball silver medalist Jeffrey de Luna also boosted their bids for the $15,000 (about P690,000) champion's purse by hurdling their respective rivals.

Corteza, top player of the Negros Billiard Stable, bested Japanese ace Naoyuki Oi, 9-7, in their group stage opener while De Luna routed Malaysian Mohd Sapawi Bin Dan, 9-3.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

Rivera opens defense of PBC Int'l crown

BIBOY RIVERA, STILL RECOVERING FROM A knee injury, opened defense of his men's Open masters crown late yesterday in the 36th PBC-Boysen International Tenpin Bowling Championships at the SM Mall of Asia Bowling Centre.

"Thanks to therapy, the left knee doesn't bother me too much anymore," said Rivera before plunging into action in the first of two eight-game qualifying series. "I am slowly getting my game back."

The bespectacled 31-year-old bowler has been content to let his teammates hog the spotlight in the two-week-old tournament.

He has been studiously analyzing the lane conditions, though, in his bid to retain one of two major international championships he won in 2006—the other being the world championships' masters title in Busan, South Korea, late last year.

To do that, Rivera must hold off a host of rivals in the chase for the top pot of P250,000.

Among them is a pair of promising junior bowlers—Julius Sy and Jeff Chan—who finished first and third in the qualifying with four-game scores of 1,040 and 970, respectively.

Also a strong prospect is Markwin Tee, the 2005 Southeast Asian Games men's masters gold medalist, who was No. 4 with a 970.

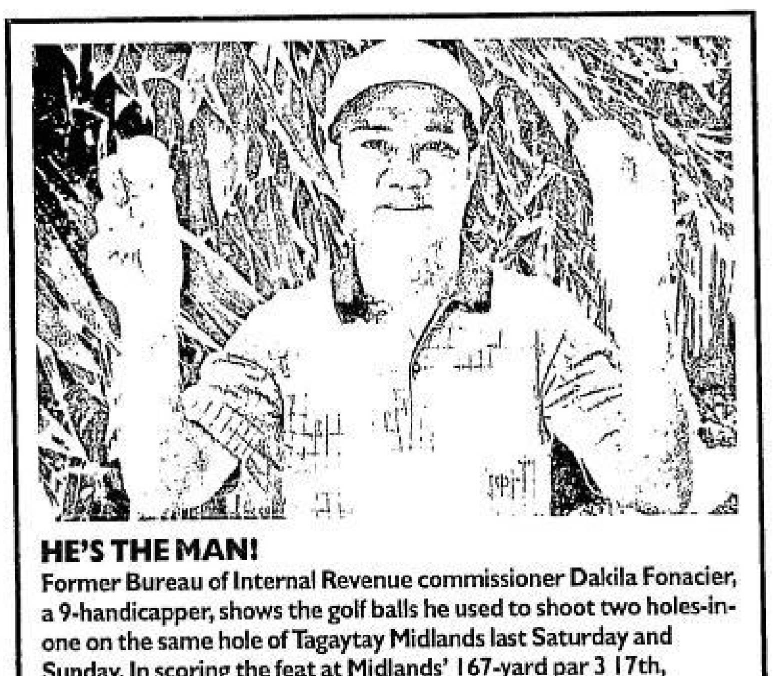
The foreign challenge is spearheaded by Indonesian Ryan Lalisan who carded 1,000 two days ago and was No. 2 in the preliminary stage.

Hong Kong bet Wu Siu-hong could also figure in the title race after shooting a 999 while the South Korean pair of Oh Young-ki and Jo Nam-yi, the Doha Asian Games men's masters champion, had scores of 998 and 957, respectively.

The top 42 singles qualifiers will play a two eight-game qualifying series, with the best six bowlers advancing to the stepladder finals.

In the distaff side, Korean Kim Eun-jung led the qualifiers with 962 with Malaysians Syakira Yeoh (939) and Zatil Iman (935) occupying the next two places.

RIVERA RUDY ESPERAS



HE'S THE MAN!

Former Bureau of Internal Revenue commissioner Dakila Fonacier, a 9-handicapper, shows the golf balls he used to shoot two holes-in-one on the same hole of Tagaytay Midlands last Saturday and Sunday. In scoring the feat at Midlands' 167-yard par 3 17th, Fonacier, chair of Odyssey Music and Video Group, beat odds estimated by statisticians to be an astounding 225 million to 1. "Everyone around me went crazy after the first ace," he said. "It was my turn to go crazy after the second hole in one."

Forest Hills, Alabang show way in Fed golf

Standings (win-loss-draw)

Group I—Alabang 2-0-0, Highlands 2-1-0, Malarayat 1-2-0, Valley 0-1-0, Southwoods 0-1-0

Group II—Northwoods 2-1-0, Wack Wack 2-1-0, Sherwood Hills 2-1-0, Canlubang 1-2-0, John Hay 1-2-0, Orchard 0-3-0

Group III—Forest Hills 3-0-0, Riviera 2-1-0, Eastridge 0-1-1, Mimosa 0-1-1, Sta. Elena 0-2-0

FORMER CHAMPION FOREST Hills opened its bid by racking up three straight victories while Alabang won two in a row in Federation Golf League matches held in various venues recently.

Forest kicked off its campaign by trashing Mimosa, 5-0, followed this up with a 3-2 cliffhanger over Riviera and then dominated Sta. Elena, 4-1, for a perfect 3-0-0 win-loss-draw record in Group III heading into this weekend's matches.

Alabang beat Malarayat, 4-1, and Highlands, 3-2, in Group I to remain as the only other unbeaten team in the series among members of the Federation of Philippine Golf Clubs, Inc.

Sherwood Hills hacked out the first major stunner of the season, halting the two-game streak of Royal Northwoods, 3-2, with the high-low pair of Jason Yu and Raymond Bunquin providing the clincher with a win on the last hole.

The Sherwood shocker created an early three-way tie for the lead in Group II among Sherwood, Wack Wack and Northwoods.

Defending champion Manila Southwoods lost its opener, 1-4, to Malarayat, which also ended a two-game skid for the Batangas golfers.

Tagaytay Highlands also got off to a good start with consecutive wins over Valley and Malarayat before bowing to Alabang.

The newly added fifth format—a four-ball or best-ball for Class B players—has made matches more exciting, often becoming the deciding mode of play in a duel.

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—Fairy Queen/Empire King (1), Frosty Sally (3), Earl Gray (2)

Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Getting Personal (5), Delicious Decision (6), Storm (4), Moneyline (6), Bull Rider (1), Puede Ba (3)

Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Kiss of the Wind(4), Moneyline (6), Bull Rider (1), Puede Ba (3)

Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Jabez (7), Showgirl (1), Italia (3), Sheila Princess (5)

Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)— Even Storm (5), Janelle's Episode (4), Bagong Silang (3), Color My World (1)

Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Macho Man (8), Lyanjonik (3), Brazilian Babe (1), Real Black (6), Pound for Pound (9)

Race 7—(Tri)—Arsenal (5), Dance Music (4), Princess Tokai (3),

Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Gigi's Gold/Letshaveaparty (5), Mainatay (3), Mark's Rose (1), Reign of Roses (4)

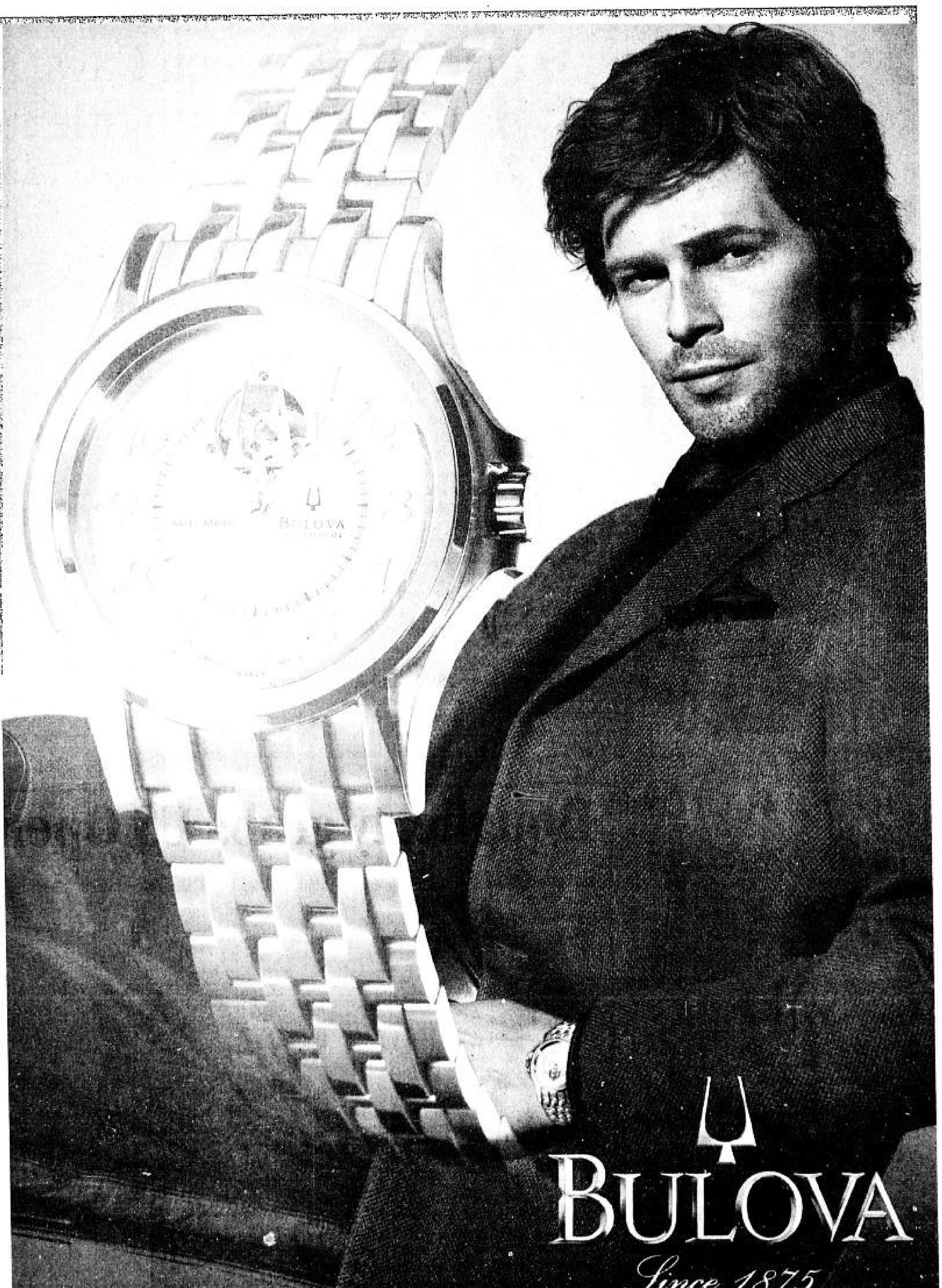
Race 9—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Prince Larry (1), Olive Oyl (9), Golden Touch (5), Top of D'Line (6), Speed Bullet (2)

Race 10—(Tri)—Smooth Strike (3), Strong Will (1), Slew Dancer (4)

Race 11—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Advance Party (4), Magic Dancer (5), Maricor's Charm (8), Half Medium (7), Gun Chaser (3)

Race 12—(Qrt/Tri)—Bumble Bee (6), Cash Feeder (2), Sunline (3), Joint Account (5)

Race 13—(Super Six/Qrt/Tri)—West N Wild (6), Classic Royale (5), C Tonet (4), Golden Lance (9), Selfmade (10), Seniority (3)



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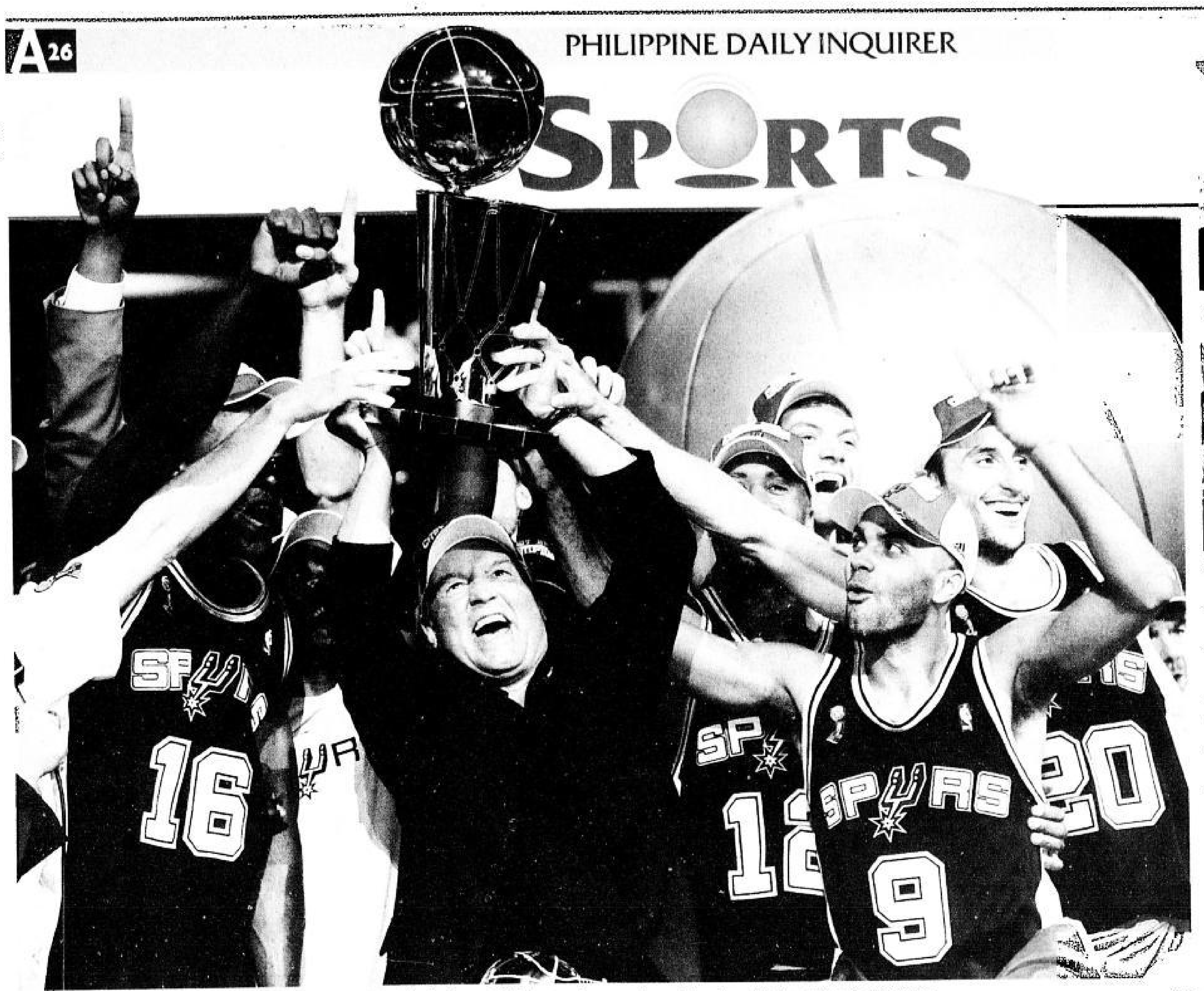
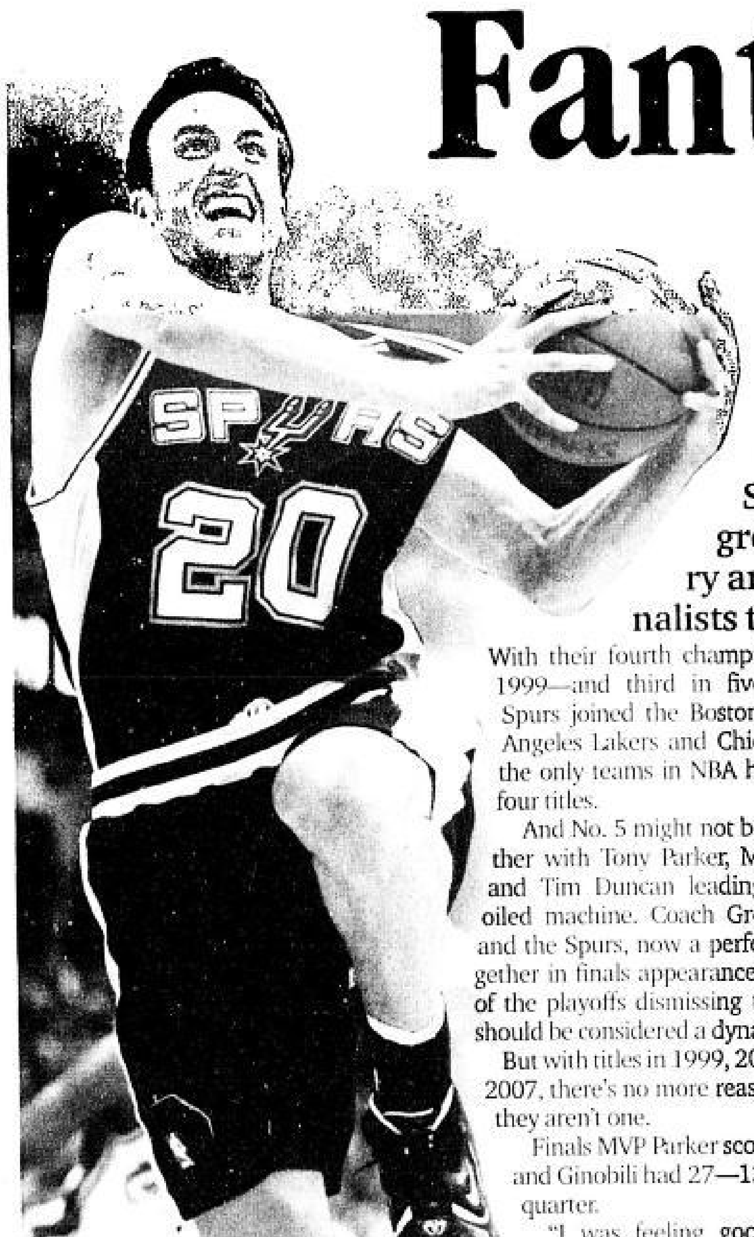


SAN ANTONIO CEO Peter Holt (second from left) holds the Larry O'Brien trophy up as he celebrates with the triumphant Spurs. AFP

Fantastic fourth

Spurs sweep Cavs, join NBA elite with 4th title in 9 years



GINOBILI: Game 4 hero. REUTERS

CLEVELAND—THE SAN ANTONIO Spurs moved in among the NBA's greatest franchises with an 83-82 victory and a four-game sweep of first-time finalists the Cleveland Cavaliers on Thursday.

With their fourth championship since 1999—and third in five years—the Spurs joined the Boston Celtics, Los Angeles Lakers and Chicago Bulls as the only teams in NBA history to win four titles.

And No. 5 might not be far away either with Tony Parker, Manu Ginobili and Tim Duncan leading this Texas-oiled machine. Coach Gregg Popovich and the Spurs, now a perfect 4-for-4 together in finals appearances, spent most of the playoffs dismissing talk that they should be considered a dynasty.

But with titles in 1999, 2003, 2005 and 2007, there's no more reason to pretend they aren't one.

Finals MVP Parker scored 24 points, and Ginobili had 27—13 in the fourth quarter.

"I was feeling good and confident," said Ginobili. "Sometimes I settle for the outside shot. I should have driven more but in the last couple minutes I started doing better, made a big three and a big layup so everything changed then."

As the final seconds ticked off on Cleveland's finest season, Duncan stood at center court with both arms raised triumphantly as the rest of the Spurs danced around their center in a huddle. San Antonio's kingpin sought out Cleveland's Eric Snow, but was unable to find rival star LeBron James in the pandemonium.

The final moments were hectic, though, as the Spurs needed every last free throw to hold off the Cavaliers, who made a last stand at home in a season of seasons for their once downtrodden franchise.

Cleveland went on an 11-0 run to open the fourth quarter, taking its first lead in any second half of the series on James' drive with 7:55 left. Cleveland went up 63-60 on Daniel Gibson's drive, but that's when Duncan and Co. showed why they're champions.

Ginobili scored inside, was fouled and missed his free throw. But Duncan muscled into the lane and tipped in the miss to make it 66-63. The Cavs tied it, but Ginobili, who didn't make a field goal in Game 3, dropped a three-pointer, and when James missed a 3, the Spurs regained control by outworking Cleveland.

Duncan and Fabricio Oberto scrapped for offensive rebounds as the Spurs kept the ball for nearly two minutes before Oberto's three-point play made it 72-66 with 2:29 remaining. Duncan then poked the ball away from James and Oberto scored underneath to give San Antonio a 74-66 lead.

James, possibly a little tired following the early morning birth of his second son, hit another 3-pointer but Ginobili responded again with a tough runner in the lane to make it 76-69.

Damon Jones made three free throws and James made another 3-pointer, but Ginobili made four free throws in the final seven seconds and immediately began celebrating a title that was all but inevitable.

San Antonio's four-game sweep was the eighth since the finals began in 1947.

Parker, who averaged 24.5 points on 57 percent shooting, became the first European-born player to be honored as MVP. Until now, the Frenchman was mostly viewed as a pretty decent player with a prettier fiance, TV actress Eva Longoria.

When Parker was handed his trophy, his soon-to-be-bride wiped away tears.

"It's great. It's history. It's just unbelievable. I'm speechless," Parker said. "When I look at that trophy, I'm going to wake up tomorrow and it's still going to be a dream." *AP*

PARKER: Hoops at 3 a.m. REUTERS

Parker adds a touch of history as Finals MVP

CLEVELAND—TONY PARKER LEARNED ALL about NBA championship basketball while most of his countrymen were sleeping.

The San Antonio point guard used to wake up at 3 a.m. while growing up in France to watch the Chicago Bulls play in the NBA finals. That helped Parker, who made his NBA debut at 19, get a feel for the league long before he played in it.

"I watched all of them," Parker said, without telling his parents he was sneaking into the living room. "You learn a lot watching that.

"When I first came in the league, a lot of people were surprised by my knowledge about the history of the game."

LONGORIA AFP

Parker earned his own slice of history on Thursday when he became the first European-born player to receive the NBA finals MVP after the Spurs beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 83-82 and swept the title in four games.

It was the Spurs' fourth championship and Parker's third.

When asked which was more nerve-racking—playing in the NBA finals or his impending wedding to TV actress Eva Longoria, the shortest man on the court replied, "That's a good question. I'm not nervous. I'm not nervous."

Nervous would have been an apt description, though, when Parker was selected by San Antonio in the 2001 draft after one of their assistant coaches pounded him in a pre-draft workout.

"Here was this skinny 19-year-old kid from France who had been eating croissants his whole life. I could tell by the middle of the workout," Spurs general manager RC Buford recalled, "it was a disaster."

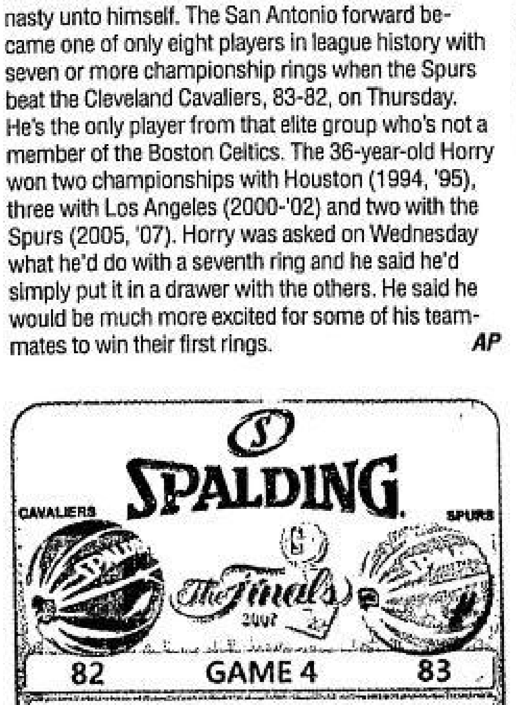
Parker was born in Belgium and grew up playing ball in France, where his father, former Loyola University of Chicago player Tony Parker Sr. had gone to chase his own dreams of playing pro ball. His son, meanwhile, flourished in the French junior system and began hatching plans of his own.

After watching Jordan and the Bulls, he'd head over to the playground.

"When you're small you're always trying to repeat the moves, the post-ups and fadeaways," he said. "I was a point guard so I can't do fadeaways and post-ups. But I was still trying." *AP*

Horry scores a milestone

CLEVELAND—ROBERT HORRY IS A NBA DYnasty unto himself. The San Antonio forward became one of only eight players in league history with seven or more championship rings when the Spurs beat the Cleveland Cavaliers, 83-82, on Thursday. He's the only player from that elite group who's not a member of the Boston Celtics. The 36-year-old Horry won two championships with Houston (1994, '95), three with Los Angeles (2000-'02) and two with the Spurs (2005, '07). Horry was asked on Wednesday what he'd do with a seventh ring and he said he'd simply put it in a drawer with the others. He said he would be much more excited for some of his teammates to win their first rings. *AP*



82 GAME 4 83
0 STANDING 4
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Dougherty grabs US Open lead; Tiger lurking

OAKMONT, PENNSYLVANIA—OAKmont Country Club was as easy as it gets. The US Open was as tough as ever.

Even with a half-inch of rain on the eve of the championship and several hole locations that showed a compassionate side of the US Golf Association, Nick Dougherty and Angel Cabrera were the only players who managed to break par on Thursday in an opening round that left players wondering if the worst was ahead of them.

Dougherty, a 25-year-old from England, played in the fourth group of the still morning and quickly raised hopes of ending a European drought in the majors that stretches back to 1999. He took only 11 putts on the back nine in his round of 2-under 68, a score not many thought possible earlier in the week.

"I think the course is—I hate saying it—easy," Dougherty said, sounding like that might come back to haunt him. "Goodness, I shouldn't have said that. No, absolutely not. The course is barbaric."

Cabrera was one of only two players who reached 3 under, and lost a share of the lead with a bogey on the 313-yard 17th.

Two-time Masters champion Jose Maria Olazabal shot even-par 70, while the large group at 71 included Tiger Woods, defending champion Geoff Ogilvy, Jim Furyk and Vijay Singh.

Woods holed a 12-foot birdie putt on the sixth hole that put him 1 under, his first time in red numbers at this major since the second round at Pinehurst No. 2 in 2005. He gave it back two holes later and never caught up to par.

"It's as easy as it's going to play, and it's still pretty hard," Woods said. "Imagine if it didn't rain last night."

With greens that Olazabal described as rock-hard only a day ago, Oakmont was softened by the Wednesday thunderstorms and cloud cover through the better part of the morning. The greens were still fast, but players had to guard against too much spin with a wedge in their hands, and some longer irons didn't roll too far away.

Phil Mickelson didn't make a birdie in his round of 74. He didn't break his wrist, either.

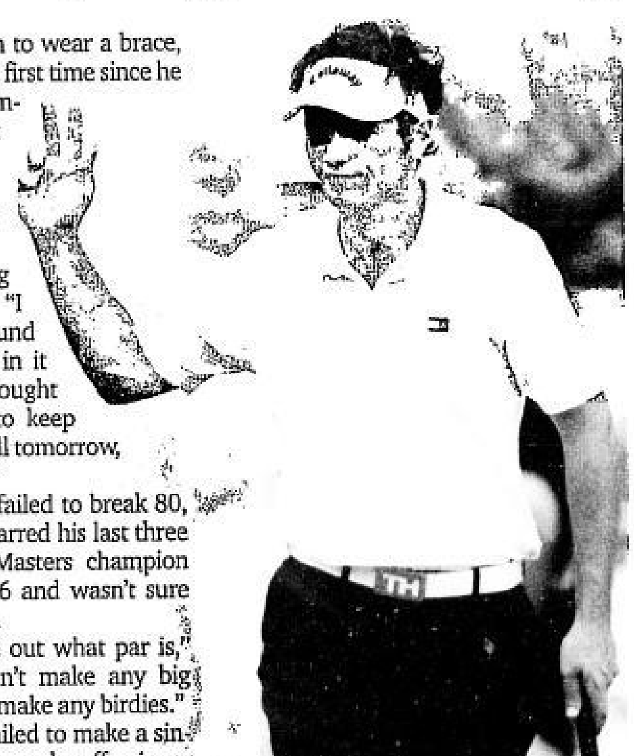
It was his highest opening round at the US Open in 10 years, and all things considered, it wasn't too bad. Mickelson, dealing with inflammation in his left wrist that requires him to wear a brace, played 18 holes for the first time since he won The Players Championship. He didn't have many looks at birdie, but he played the final eight holes without a bogey.

"We've got a long ways to go," he said. "I just need one good round tomorrow to get me in it for the weekend. I fought the last eight holes to keep me in it, and if I do well tomorrow, that's all I care about."

Seventeen players failed to break 80, while Sergio Garcia parred his last three holes to shoot 79. Masters champion Zach Johnson shot 76 and wasn't sure what to think about it.

"It's hard to figure out what par is," Johnson said. "I didn't make any big numbers. But I didn't make any birdies."

In all, 28 players failed to make a single birdie. Ernie Els, a playoff winner when the US Open last came here in 1994, was 1 under par as he headed for the turn, then the birdies dried up and the bogeys kept flowing. *AP*



DOUGHERTY: 'Barbaric' course. REUTERS

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OFW remittances surge 26% to $4.7B

Dip in deployment noted in Jan-April

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE INCREASING NUMBER OF REMITTANCE AGENTS catering to expatriate Filipino communities helped sustain the strong level of dollar remittances for the 12th month in a row, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said yesterday.

This developed as the central monetary authority noted the decline in the number of Filipinos leaving to work abroad from January to April—an indicator that could mean more muted remittance growth in the coming months.

According to the BSP, remittances of overseas Filipino workers (OFW) hit $4.7 billion during the first four months of 2007. This was 26.1-percent higher than the level of OFW remittances reported in the same period last year.

This also marked the 12th consecutive month that remittance flows exceeded $1 billion, the central bank

OFW/ B2

Stock prices continue record run

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

BLUE CHIPS AYALA CORP., AYALA LAND Inc. and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) lifted the local stock market to a new all-time high, with investors taking their cue on Wall Street's overnight gains.

The Philippine Stock Exchange index jumped 42.67 points or 1.17 percent to 3,671.29. The broader all shares index also jumped 20.58 points or 0.89 percent to 2,324.79.

Value turnover swelled to P19 billion after several blocks of San Miguel Corp. shares worth P13 billion were crossed yesterday.

"The strength (yesterday) is not surprising since we've been hitting all-time

STOCK/ B5

'Hot money' inflows rise to $5.9B

By Michelle V. Remo

FOREIGN PORTFOLIO INVESTMENTS into the country more than doubled to $5.9 billion in January to May from $2.74 billion in the same period last year, underscoring a bullish investor sentiment that monetary authorities said was anchored on improving economic fundamentals.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday reported that net inflow of foreign portfolio investments—or if outflows were deducted from the gross inflows—amounted to $1.67 billion, up by 151 percent from the $665 million recorded a year ago.

The BSP said in a statement that the rise in portfolio investments had to do partly with the robust growth posted by the economy in the first quarter that encouraged placement of money in the Philippines.

The economy, as measured by the country's gross domestic product, grew by 6.9 percent in the first quarter, marking its strongest performance in 17 years. The growth was attributed to a rise in exports and household con-

HOT MONEY/ B5

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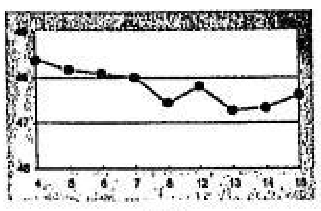

JUNE

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P 46.39 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 15, 2007

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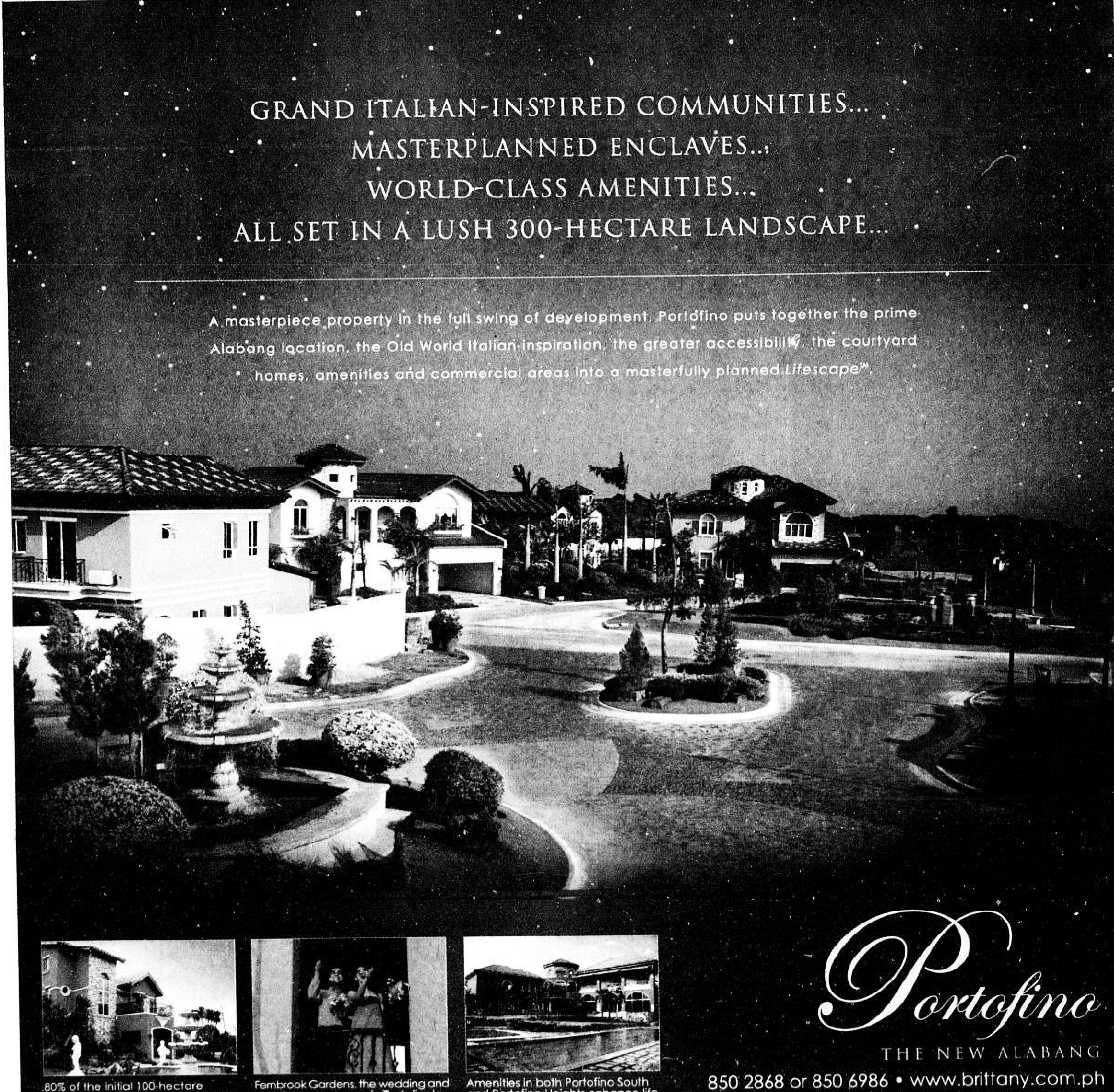
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Bank loans grew by 12.1% to P2T as of April

Responding to calls for increased lending

By Michelle V. Remo

OUTSTANDING LOANS EXTENDED by the country's banking sector registered a double-digit growth as of April, reflecting a rise in demand for credit by businesses.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday said loans granted by commercial, thrift and rural banks hit P2.046 trillion as of end-April, up by 12.1 percent from the P1.83 trillion in the same month last year.

The BSP also said it had revised its bank lending growth computation for March, which, it said actually grew by 10.5 percent year-on-year. Its previous report showed growth of 9.9 percent.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the double-digit growth showed that banks were already responding to calls for an increase in their lending activities.

Earlier, economists said the high savings rate in the country did not help boost economic growth, because banks were not aggressive enough in lending.

Economic managers said that an increase in savings, such as in the form of bank deposits, should be matched with a growth in lending so that available funds could be used in boosting economic activity.

Tetangco earlier said that with the latest savings rate at more than 27 percent of the country's gross domestic product, bank lending should be growing by at least 10 percent. A double-digit growth in lending was required so that the increase in savings would translate into a substantial increase in business activity, he added.

"The recent upturn in total bank lending reflects the progress that the banks have made in strengthening their balance sheets, as well as the stronger demand for credit by firms and consumers," Tetangco said in a statement.

The BSP said the biggest recipients of bank loans, among local industries, as of April were: Financial institutions and real estate firms (P677 billion); companies engaged in community, social and personal services (P383 billion); manufacturing firms (P376 billion) and wholesale and retail trade (P258 billion).

In the first quarter of the year, the economy, as measured by the gross domestic product (GDP), grew by 6.9 percent from a year ago. This was the strongest performance in 17 years. The growth was attributed to the rise in exports and household consumption, as well as the increase in government expenditures.

Economic managers have said that to ensure sustainability of the strong growth posted in the first quarter, the country should attract more investments that would provide more jobs for Filipinos.

To encourage more investments, they said, banks should maintain a high level of lending to businesses for their expansion programs.

asaganaang Abot-Kaya

FOOD CARAVAN
Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap met tilapia producers from Northern Luzon during the Food Caravan drop-off at Commonwealth market in Quezon City. The caravan showcases the ongoing efforts of the DA to ensure adequate food supply and make them more affordable for low-income families.

Napocor cuts greenhouse gas emissions

By Abigail L. Ho

THE REDUCTION IN ITS USE OF oil-based power plants enabled National Power Corp. not only to slash its operating expenses, but also to cut down substantially its greenhouse gas emission levels.

Napocor president Cyril Del Callar said that since the state firm had started using its oil-based generation facilities less, emission levels of carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, nitric dioxide and carbon monoxide had gone down significantly.

Napocor data showed that from almost 13 percent in 2003, oil-based facilities now accounted for only about 7 percent of the firm's generation mix in 2006.

Napocor's fuel oil consumption had dropped by almost 30 percent from 1.19 billion liters in 2003 to 885 million liters last year.

This resulted in an almost 40-percent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions, from 325,513.12 tons in 2003 to 203,192.56 tons in 2006.

Sulfur dioxide emissions also fell by more than 38 percent to 14,115.09 tons in 2006 from 22,171.97 tons in 2003.

The state firm was also able to trim down nitric dioxide emissions by nearly 36 percent, from 67,088.09 tons in 2003 to 42,709.53 tons in 2006, and carbon monoxide by 36 percent, from 14,590.59 tons in 2003 to 9,288.64 tons in 2006.

Del Callar said the reduction in Napocor's emission levels were more than what was required by the Clean Air Act and other pertinent environmental laws.

"These results have encouraged us in Napocor to likewise adopt the same generation mix wherever possible in our off-grid small island operations under our missionary electrification function. We have also reserved the use of oil-fired power plants only during the dry season when water from our hydropower plants are not enough due to low dam elevations," he added.

He said Napocor's 11 watershed areas with a total area of more than 590,000 hectares also contributed to having cleaner air through "carbon sequestration."

Chinese firm to sign bioethanol contracts

By Amy R. Remo

THREE LOCAL COMPANIES ARE expected to sign detailed contracts with a Chinese company this month for the construction of three bioethanol plants worth a total of $105 million.

Documents from the Department of Agriculture showed that Nanning Yong Kai Industry Group and its three prospective partners—B.M. SB Integrated Biofuels Co., Negros Southern Integrated Biofuels and One Cagayan Resource Development Inc.—were now in the final stages of negotiations.

During the state visit to the Philippines of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao in January, Nanning Yong Kai of China signed memoranda of agreement with the three local firms to explore the possibility of investing in agriculture projects here.

This was followed by the holding of separate talks between Nanning and the three firms.

The Chinese firm plans to produce bioethanol in Murcia, Negros Occidental through SB Integrated Biofuels, and in Kabangkalan, Negros Occidental through Negros Southern Integrated.

The third bioethanol plant would be put up in Sta. Maria, Piat in Cagayan Valley through One Cagayan Resource.

Eugenia Go, DA China desk officer, said the plants would be in operation in 18 months if there would be sugar plantations to supply the feedstock requirements of the plants and 24 months, if there was none.

US company sets up Asia-Pacific hub in RP

By Riza T. Olchondra

A US-BASED PROVIDER OF RISK mitigation services has chosen the Philippines as its hub for the Asia-Pacific regional, company officials told the INQUIRER on Friday.

First Advantage Corp., which ranks among the top three companies in its major business areas, has earmarked $1 million to expand its presence in the country this year.

The company offers solutions to help firms eliminate fraud and scam losses associated with the recruitment of employees. A subsidiary of First Advantage Corp. of Florida, the company claimed to be the largest provider of pre-employment background screening services in the Asia-Pacific.

Executive vice president for Asia Pacific Wayne Tollemache said First Advantage would start welcoming 250 employees to its new facility in Muntinlupa City on Monday.

First Advantage started operating in the country in 2005 with 12 employees. It now has 150 people and expects to have 450 by the end of the year.

"We may add another 800 in two or three years, depending on how fast we grow," Tollemache said, adding that the company will invest up to $5 million over the next three years to recruit 800 people.

The company's existing center at the Madrigal Business Park in Alabang services multinational firms operating in the country. "We will soon be bringing in new clients from New Zealand, Australia and the US," said Tollemache.

"The Philippines is becoming known for high-value work, not just for voice services. It is such a new space that no one has sat down and measured the market. We see 50 percent growth year on year."

OFW remittances . . .

From page B1

said. In April 2007 alone, dollar inflows from the OFW community stood at $1.2 billion.

"Remittance flows were facilitated by easier access of overseas Filipinos to formal remittance channels," BSP Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. said in a statement.

"In particular, the high level of remittances was supported by the increased presence of remittance agents abroad through the establishment of overseas centers as well as tie-ups with other remittance companies and financial institutions abroad," he added.

The BSP said the increased number of agents in the formal system was also complemented by the enhanced services offered by banks allowing the more efficient delivery of these funds to beneficiaries.

It said that remittances remained high even as the number of workers leaving for abroad declined during the first four months of the year, relative to the level of the same period in the previous year.

Preliminary data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) showed that the total number of deployed workers contracted year-on-year by 7.8 percent to 343,397 despite the pick-up in deployment in April.

On a year-on-year basis, land- and sea-based workers—263,324 and 80,073, respectively—were 6.3 percent and 12.3 percent lower compared to the number of deployed workers a year ago.

"The drop in deployment may be partly attributed to the new hiring policy of Saudi Arabia requiring Saudi-bound workers to secure 'no objection certificates' from their previous employers as part of entry requirements," Tetangco said in his statement.

The new requirement was imposed to ensure that workers complied with their previous employment contracts.

The central bank downplayed, however, any fears about the prospects of declining OFW remittances.

"Looking ahead, remittances are expected to remain strong due to the increasing demand for highly skilled and professional Filipinos, particularly in the fields of information technology, health care, hotel and restaurant, construction and shipbuilding industries," the BSP chief said.

The bulk of the remittances continued to come from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Italy, Japan and Hong Kong.

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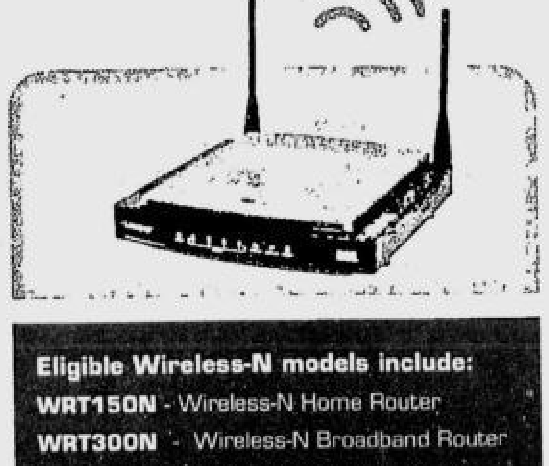

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Free of red tape, business owners may now register with DTI online

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INdustry yesterday launched an online payment system using cellular phones for the registration of business names.

The system marked a leap from the red tape that cluttered public transactions in the past.

Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said the BNRS G-Cash online payment service, put up in partnership with Globe Telecom, would be initially available in Rizal, Laguna, Bulacan, Pampanga, Iloilo and Metro Manila.

"Electronic payments may be made through the Globe and Touch Mobile networks," Favila said. "All other key areas in the country would be enjoined to implement the facility within the year."

He said that, with the new system in place, the entire process of registering one's business name could now be made online.

Still, business owners will have to visit the DTI office in the same area where their businesses are located to pick up their business name certificate.

DTI would not pay the network for the use of the system. It said registrants would be charged P2.50 per text transaction as value-added transaction fee, on top of the registration fees of P300 for sole proprietorships, and P500 for corporations.

Favila added that business owners could still opt to pay in cash or check in areas where the online system is available. But he is encouraging the public to use the system for hassle-free transactions.

Registrants may access the BNRS over the Internet by clicking a link at the DTI website—www.dti.gov.ph—or going directly to www.bnrs.dti.gov.ph.

Also, the DTI's National Capital Region office earlier this week announced that it would open in August two new offices located near MRT and LRT stations.

Trade Assistant Secretary Angel L. Pelayo said that with the new offices—the first located on Edsa in Mandaluyong City and the other at the Park 'N Ride complex in Manila—the DTI NCR would be able to serve more clients.

Aside from business name applications and registrations, the new offices would also accommodate consumer complaints.

Aussie company prepares to drill for oil in Calauit

By Abigail L. Ho

AUSTRALIAN FIRM OTTO ENERgy Ltd. has finished gathering 3D seismic data over 116 square kilometers of the Calauit and Calauit South fields covered by Service Contract 50, paving the way for the preparation of a concrete drilling plan.

In a disclosure to the Australian Stock Exchange, Otto Energy chief executive Alex Parks said seismic vessel CGG-Veritas Pacific Sword has also started gathering 2D seismic data over 954 kilometers in Palawan.

Data gathering over this area, which is covered by SC 55, is already 50 percent complete as of June 12, he said.

After SC 55, he said the seismic vessel would move to Otto Energy's SC 51 petroleum blocks over the East Visayan Basin to gather 3D seismic data over a 145-sq. km. area, and 2D data over a 261-km. patch.

"The entire seismic program is expected to be complete by the end of July 2007, after which the seismic data will be processed ... and drilling plans finalized, Parks said. Drilling has been scheduled some time in the third quarter of 2008.

According to Otto Energy's estimates, the Calauit field in SC 50 has the potential to produce 40 million barrels of oil.

The data acquired from the SC 55 seismic survey would be used to beef up Otto Energy plans to drill in the Marantao prospect in late 2008 or early 2009.

"It is the company's opinion that Marantao has the volumetric potential to contain sufficient gas to warrant (a liquefied natural gas) project," Otto Energy said in an earlier disclosure.

For SC 51, the seismic surveys focused on the Argao and Cabilao prospects, in preparation for drilling next year.

The two prospects, the company had earlier said, had a combined potential of 200 million barrels of recoverable oil.

The company holds a 65-percent working interest in SC 50, a 70-percent interest in SC 51 and a 75-percent stake in SC 55.

DA releases ₱30-M fund to combat beetle threat

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULture has tapped P30 million from the Coconut Industry Investment Fund to embark on a massive program to eradicate the leaf beetle menace now threatening the entire coconut industry.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said that he has also ordered the Philippine Coconut Authority to release P350,000 for insecticide treatments that would be used on more than 75,000 affected trees in 18 coconut-producing provinces.

He said the infestation needs to be contained immediately because the coconut industry is still on recovery mode after it had been devastated by super typhoons in late 2006.

According to Yap, the P30 million will be used to fund a comprehensive survey, information drive and eradication program to rid the industry of this pest.

"We expect non-infected areas and islands to be protected from this coconut leaf beetle through effective quarantine and information dissemination about the pest," Yap said. "We cannot take this threat lightly because the coconut leaf beetle could cause considerable damage to our coconut industry."

This variety of beetle, scientific name *Brontispa longgissima Gestro*, was reported to have arrived in the country in 2005 along with imported ornamental plants. The beetles were first spotted on palm trees along the Baywalk strip of Roxas Boulevard in Manila.

To date, the pest has infested more than 70,000 tall and 5,000 small coconut trees, as well as countless other ornamental plants.

Under the program, a P1.5-million biological control laboratory will be established to mass produce and utilize local natural enemies against the leaf beetle, Yap said.

In countries where the pest had spread, coconut processing factories had shut down and thousands of workers and farmers lost their jobs, according to Mateo Zipagan of the BAT Technical Working Group.

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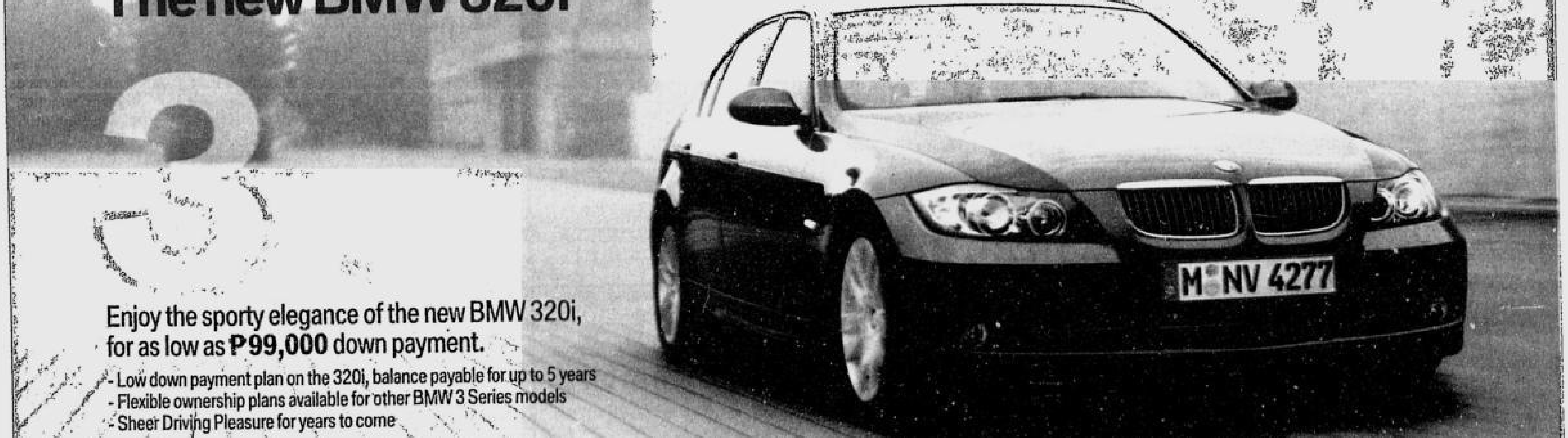

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"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, even if he dies; will live and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die." John 11:25-26

In Loving Memory
on the
3rd Death Anniversary of our Beloved

Rosalinda Tiangco-Alindogan

(August 29, 1933 – June 16, 2004)

Holy Masses will be offered today, June 16, 2007 at the following churches:

St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish	Magallanes Village, Makati City	6:15 AM 7:00 AM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM
Sanctuario De San Antonio Friary	McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City	6:15 AM 7:30 AM 12:15 PM 4:30 PM 6:00 PM
Sto. Niño de Paz Chapel	Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City	12:15 PM 4:30 PM 6:00 PM
Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish	4098 Bouganville Road Sun Valley Subd. Parañaque City	6:30 AM 6:00 PM
St. Thomas Moore Parish	6511 176th Street SW Lynwood, Washington, 98037 USA	5:00 PM
Mission San Diego de Alcala	10818 San Diego Mission Road San Diego, California 92126 USA	

In Memory of

DR. SALVADOR H. FELIPE, M.D.

born November 26, 1927 and peacefully joined his Creator on June 14, 2007 at the age of 79.

His loving family: widow **Lily Pe**; their children **Dr. Lilisa, M.D.** & husband **Dr. Laurence H. de Guzman, M.D.**; **Lilian** & husband **Vitavat Buranabul**; and **Salvador Alan** & wife **Atty. Josie R. Abu**; grandchildren, **Lyssa "Elle" Laurelle, Laryssa Lí Vienne "Via", Trisha Marie, Lance Joshua** and **Lander Jacob**; **Angeli**, brothers, brothers-in-law, sisters, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel 2-A, Funeraria Nacional, Araneta Ave., Q.C. Cremation will be at the HERITAGE PARK CREMATORY, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City on Wednesday, June 20, 2007 after the funeral Mass at 9:00 a.m.

ORLANDO SEPAGAN ADOVISO

June 4, 1924 – June 14, 2007

- **United States Navy Veteran (1944-1946)**
- **Operative of Special Investigation and Intelligence Division**
- **Office Personnel, US Army Base, Washington, D.C.**
- **Graduate of Aircraft Maintenance Engineering, FEATI University 1951**

His bereaved wife, **Adelaida Fernandez Adoviso** and son, **Fr. Erik Martin Fernandez Adoviso**; brothers **Don, Ruben, Rodolfo** & sisters **Lydia, Aurora, Elvira, Devie** and **Fe**; request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Nacional Memorial Homes, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, June 17, 2007, at Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina after the 1:00 PM Mass of His Eminence Gaudencio B. Cardinal Rosales at Most Holy Trinity Parish, Balic-Balic, Sampaloc, Manila.

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I shall live in the house of the Lord forever."
Psalm 23:6

In Loving memory of
our beloved Mother and friend

TERESITA REVILLA SANTOS

"TESSIE"

who peacefully joined our Lord on June 14, 2007 at the age of 78.

Her beloved husband, **ERNESTO** (†), children **Tina & Gary, Ricky & Maripi, Cecile** (†), **Eddieboy & Chini, Ditas, Joji & Jeg, Manoler** and **Michele**, brothers **Pinggoy** and **Vicente Revilla**, 17 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren, 19aunt **Pilar Goyena**, relatives, and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her ashes lie in state at Mt. Carmel Church, Broadway St., Quezon City starting today at 4 P.M. Inurnment will be announced later.

Notify family and friends of a loved one who had just passed away.

We accept death notices, announcing details of the person's wake and interment. For a very affordable fee you can reach out to everyone who have been a part of the life of your dearly departed. For more information, you may contact Inquirer Classifieds at (02)897 8425.

November 20, 1928 – May 25, 2007

Our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers, kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

The family of the late

REMEDIOS ESCUETA YU

of Biñan, Laguna

Victoria Yu Cachola

peacefully joined our Lord and her husband, EBENEZER (†) *on June 10, 2007 at the age of 83.*

Her children **EDWIN** & **Mayette**, **BOBBIT** & **Gigi**, **EPPIE** & **Bernard**; her grandchildren **Joy** & **Daniel**, **Jackie** and **Jessica**; **Caryl** & **Charles**, **Errol** & **Jolynn**; **Carrisse** and **Cairene**; her great-grandchildren **Matthew** and **Hayley**; together with her siblings, **Avelina**, **Severino**, **Lorenzo** and **Ramon** request relatives, friends, and pious readers to pray for the repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at 1010 Sta. Catalina Street, San Antonio, Biñan, Laguna.

Interment will be on Tuesday, June 19, 2007 at Roman Catholic Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at San Isidro Labrador Church, Poblacion, Biñan, Laguna

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"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

JUAN LITO FARIÑAS INES, JR.

of Sinait, Ilocos Sur & Quezon City

Joined his Creator on June 3, 2007 at Temecula, San Diego, USA at the age of 58.

His bereaved wife **Alegria (Guia)**; children **Adler, Cheryl, Lorraine, Harold & Abigail**; children-in-law **Rose & JR**; grandchildren **Francis, RA, Nikki, Sam, Bianca & Kyla**; sisters **Annie, Ely & Carmen**; brothers-in-law **Ben & Ernie**; nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Q.C.

Interment will be on June 20, 2007 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Chapel B-5, La Funeraria Paz.

More Classified Ads

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Notice is hereby given that stock certificate no. 89705 of Anglo Philippine Holdings Corporation, which was issued and registered in the name of THE PHILODRILL CORPORATION as owner, has been reported lost. If no contest is received, a new certificate will be issued to The Philodrill Corporation in replacement thereof.
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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 15, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.1	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.75	268,500
71	30.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	70.5	71	70	71	971,000
73	42.5	Bank of the Philippine Islands	73	73	72	72.5	2,684,500
935	630	China Banking Corp.	895	900	895	900	1,580
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank, Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.54	0.54	2,360,000
72	30.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	71.5	72	71.5	72	7,289,900
56.5	31	Philippine National Bank	53.5	54	53.5	53.5	140,300
68	38.5	Philippine Savings Bank	63	64	63	64	43,800
39.57	14.13	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	33	35	33	34.5	3,493,700
90	41	Security Bank Corp.	84	85.5	84	84.5	314,400
86	41.54	Union Bank of the Philippines	63	63	62.5	62.5	105,500
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
1.46	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.04	1.14	2,742,000
9	1.5	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	8.6	9	8.6	9	531,000
0.99	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	200,000
39	28	First Metro Investment Corp.	39	39	39	39	1,000
1,710.00	1,500.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,660.00	1,660.00	1,660.00	1,660.00	500
5	4.05	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	4.45	4.5	4.35	4.45	26,371,000
2.95	0.99	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	2.85	2.85	2.8	2.8	141,000
1,005.00	210	The Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc.	660	670	655	670	9,580
2,250.00	1,895.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,100.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	170
1.94	1.16	Vantage Corp.	1.7	1.72	1.68	1.7	2,309,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
65.5	41	First Gen Corp.	65.5	65.5	64.5	65.5	2,250,100
88	41	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	85.5	86.5	85.5	86	1,573,600
12.75	6.9	Manila Water Co. Inc.	12	12	11.75	11.75	1,863,500
102	13.75	Manila Electric Co. "A"	96.5	97.5	96.5	97	297,100
104	20.25	Manila Electric Co. "B"	98.5	98.5	97.5	98	1,982,400
6.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6	6	5.8	5.9	5,694,000
5.7	3.4	Petron Corp.	5.2	5.3	5.1	5.1	3,613,000
2.5	1.6	Salcon Power Corp.	2.2	2.24	2.2	2.22	125,000
1.62	0.9	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.52	1.54	1,174,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
5.9	2.65	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.3	5.3	170,000
2.95	1.88	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.28	2.34	2.24	2.34	1,605,000
8	1.9	Central Azucarera De Tarlac	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	115,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26	26	25.5	26	29,600
61	30	Jollibee Foods Corp.	54	54.5	53.5	54	1,405,300
7	3.5	Pancake House Inc.	7	7	7	7	5,000
10.25	10	Phil. Tob. Flue Curing and Redry Corp.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	5,300
1.9	0.77	RFM Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.7	1.74	1,004,000
4.05	2.2	Roxas Holdings	2.42	2.42	2.4	2.4	913,000
80	61	San Miguel Corp. "A"	66.5	67.5	66.5	67	219,000
88	68.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	73	75	73	73.5	330,200
0.61	0.2	Swift Foods Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.5	0.5	900,000
22	15.75	Universal Robina Corp.	17.5	18	17.5	17.75	12,666,500
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
5.8	1.13	EEI Corp.	5.4	5.6	5.4	5.6	752,000
9.2	4.2	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.2	8.4	8.2	8.4	462,000
7	1.2	Republic Cement Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	75,000
2	0.245	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.76	1.78	975,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	1.42	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	1,553,000
2.5	2	Euro-Med Laboratories Phil. Inc.	2	2.4	2	2.4	8,000
1.32	0.51	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.04	310,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	0.35	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	1.7	A. Soriano Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	25,000
0.145	0.022	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.145	0.125	0.125	499,290,000
1.16	0.18	APC Group Inc.	1.14	1.16	1.1	1.12	62,538,000
3.6	1.4	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	2.1	2.12	2.1	2.12	97,000
0.018	0.006	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.013	321,200,000
0.019	0.0065	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "B"	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	4,000,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.8	2,341,000
0.017	0.0065	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.016	0.017	0.016	0.016	882,600,000
1.2	0.45	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	1.1	1.12	1.04	1.04	1,505,000
1.5	0.085	Asia Amalgamated Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.2	0.98	1.1	481,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.55	2.55	2,926,000
16	4.5	Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc. "A"	16	16	11	15.25	600
590	272.02	Ayala Corp.	570	590	570	580	482,190
12.5	6.96	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	6,000
6.9	0.7	Balabac Resources and Holdings Co. Inc.	4.6	4.9	4.6	4.6	540,000
5.4	0.97	Benpres Holdings Corp.	5.2	5.2	5	5.1	20,658,000
9.8	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	9.2	9.4	9.2	9.2	3,847,000
1.9	0.7	F and J Prince Holdings Corp. "A"	1.64	1.64	1.4	1.4	191,000
6.7	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	1,166,000
3.55	1.14	House of Investments Inc.	2.85	2.9	2.85	2.9	214,000
14.5	5.3	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	683,500
2.7	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	1,000
2.65	1.42	Keppel Philippines Holdings Inc. "B"	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	10,000
0.69	0.185	Medco Holdings Inc.	0.65	0.69	0.64	0.68	3,460,000
0.88	0.1	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	50,000
30	0.88	Magnum Holdings Inc.	25.5	25.5	23.75	24.25	1,290,100
9.5	0.19	Multitech Investments Corp.	9.5	9.5	8.8	8.8	18,979,000
0.034	0.009	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.032	0.033	0.031	0.032	48,500,000
1.54	0.8	Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.08	1.54	1.08	1.26	1,846,000
0.63	0.16	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.53	0.55	0.53	0.55	6,330,000
450	205	SM Investments Corp.	440	442.5	437.5	440	721,140
2.2	0.62	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.72	1.74	69,000
0.73	0.115	Sinophil Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.62	0.63	33,810,000
1.06	0.51	Solid Group Inc.	0.91	0.93	0.91	0.92	940,000
1.6	0.68	South China Resources Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	72,000
0.49	0.08	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.47	0.49	0.44	0.47	53,400,000
0.69	0.155	Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.69	0.69	0.62	0.67	531,000
		PROPERTY					
2.16	0.75	A. Brown Co. Inc.	1.76	1.8	1.76	1.76	1,055,000
0.92	0.3	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.81	0.86	0.8	0.83	1,130,000
18	8.54	Ayala Land Inc.	17.5	18	17.5	17.75	30,621,700
1.76	0.99	Belle Corp.	1.68	1.7	1.68	1.68	6,283,000
4.7	1.8	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.55	4.55	4.35	4.5	89,000
0.72	0.245	Crown Equities Inc.	0.68	0.72	0.68	0.69	16,050,000
0.6	0.165	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.54	0.55	0.54	0.55	3,600,000
3.1	0.72	Edsa Properties Holdings Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	460,000
0.99	0.44	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.86	0.86	0.84	0.85	72,890,000
0.32	0.027	Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc.	0.31	0.32	0.3	0.3	24,040,000
1.24	0.38	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.22	1.24	1.16	1.18	29,713,000
2.04	0.93	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.94	1.94	25,530,000
0.016	0.0038	Interport Resources Corp. "A"	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	719,300,000
0.016	0.005	Interport Resources Corp. "B"	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.015	406,300,000
2	0.74	Keppel Philippines Properties Inc.	2	2	2	2	40,000
0.69	0.2	Kuok Phil. Properties Inc.	0.43	0.45	0.43	0.44	42,560,000
0.99	0.18	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.89	0.94	0.87	0.93	33,540,000
4.4	1.26	Megaworld Corp.	4.25	4.4	4.15	4.2	44,981,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	92,000
0.58	0.1	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.54	0.58	0.53	0.56	45,480,000
0.87	0.25	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.63	0.67	0.63	0.64	39,540,000
5.8	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.3	100,000
23	9.6	Robinson Land Corp.	20.25	21	20.25	21	6,418,800
5.4	1.23	SM Development Corp.	5.2	5.4	5.2	5.3	3,781,000
14	7	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.5	13,234,800
0.96	0.51	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.81	0.86	0.81	0.83	11,260,000
0.36	0.06	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.34	0.35	0.32	0.35	21,130,000
4.5	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		MEDIA					
34	13.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	31	32	31	31.5	24,700
1.14	0.97	Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	27,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.14	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.52	1.54	1.52	1.52	1,806,000
1,445.00	880	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,425.00	1,425.00	1,415.00	1,420.00	124,280
2,820.00	1,700.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,700.00	2,730.00	2,695.00	2,705.00	178,850
7.5	[illegible]	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	7.1	[illegible]	[illegible]	7	[illegible]
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.16	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.26	[illegible]
10.25	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	9.2	9.2	9	9	7,000
7.6	2	IPVG Corp.	6	6	5.8	5.8	275,000
0.0525	0.0263	ISM Communications Corp.	0.045	0.045	0.042	0.043	171,100,000
2.9	1.8	Ionics Inc.	2.3	2.36	2.2	2.24	3,666,000
0.0875	0.036	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.08	0.0825	0.08	0.0825	29,200,000
2.08	1.12	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.9	2.08	1.9	1.92	2,459,000
0.06	0.027	Philweb Corp.	0.0575	0.0575	0.0525	0.055	319,700,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	2.44	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
1.88	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.7	1.7	60,000
6.8	2.5	Asian Terminals Inc.	6.1	6.1	6	6	90,000
32	12.75	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	28.5	28.5	28	28.5	1,195,400
2.14	0.86	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	1.94	2	1.94	2	671,000
1.74	0.8	Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	20,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
16.5	[illegible]	Acesite (Phils.) Hotel Corp.	7.5	7.5	7.2	7.2	[illegible]
4.25	1.26	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	1,442,000
4.55	2.8	Philippine Racing Club Inc.	3.9	4	3.8	3.8	252,000
0.98	0.18	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	0.91	0.92	0.84	0.84	4,450,000
1.7	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	1.04	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		EDUCATION					
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
5.2	1.66	Macroasia Corp.	4.9	4.95	4.75	4.75	764,000
17.25	13	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	16	16	15.5	15.75	371,200
30	9.6	Paxys Inc.	25.5	27	25	25	1,220,500
4	1.3	Philippine Seven Corp.	1.3	2.8	1.3	2.8	10,000
		MINING					
0.018	0.007	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.015	292,200,000
7.6	3	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.2	276,000
7.7	3	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	274,000
21.25	5.7	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	18.25	18.25	18	18.25	768,700
14.25	8.7	Benguet Corp. "A"	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.5	33,600
5	1.7	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.2	125,000
2.85	0.0602	GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc.	2.46	2.46	2.32	2.34	97,872,000
0.35	0.215	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	3,360,000
0.42	0.225	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	3,080,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.035	0.036	0.034	0.036	384,900,000
0.041	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.036	0.037	0.036	0.036	113,700,000
0.024	0.0075	Omico Corp.	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.02	432,600,000
6.4	2.8	Philex Mining Corp.	5.9	6	5.8	5.8	5,890,000
30	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	27	27	26.5	26.5	34,000
1.36	0.29	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.18	1.2	2,586,000
1.8	0.43	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.44	1.44	3,166,000
		OIL					
0.56	0.23	Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.46	0.48	0.44	0.47	39,470,000
0.025	0.0085	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.024	100,200,000
0.027	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.025	125,800,000
14.62	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.5	31,500
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.025	1,241,900,000

BY INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK

Megaworld sales up 96% to ₱9B in January-May

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

PROPERTY DEVELOPER MEGAworld Corp. remains bullish that the property boom is not about to lose steam and may stretch for another six to nine years, Megaworld executive director Kingson Sian said.

"We are at the renaissance of the real-estate boom. The boom started last year officially. Traditionally, since 2003, the consumption story has driven the economy. The consumption story will continue," Sian said.

He added that the new engines of growth that will further fan the property expansion are government's massive spending program on airports, roads, bridges and other infrastructure; investments in the business process outsourcing (BPO) sector; the clean-up by the banking sector of bad loans (which is seen to revive lending activity) and record low interest rates.

"We are in unchartered territory. Interest rates were not that low before, now they are very low. The BPO factor was not there before. It might extend the cycle," Sian said.

As proof, the official cited Megaworld's January-to-May reservation sales—or potential sales pending the collection of 25 percent of the sales involved—kicked up 96 percent to P9 billion from P4.6 billion in the same period last year. The five-month figure almost equaled full-year 2006 sales of P10.3 billion.

Projects that have contributed to the hefty bookings were Eastwood City in Libis, Quezon City; Forbes Town Center at the Fort Bonifacio Global City in Taguig City; McKinley Hill also in Fort Bonifacio; Manhattan Garden City at the Araneta Center in Quezon City; and Newport City at the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City.

Megaworld said in its report to shareholders that it was targeting sales of P15 billion this year, 50 percent more than the P10.3 billion recorded in 2006.

Net income is expected to hit P2.9 billion this year, a 42-percent growth from the P2.04 billion recorded in 2006.

In a related development, Alliance Global Group Inc., which owns 46 percent of Megaworld, raised $400 million from the offering of new and secondary shares. AGGI will list its new shares on Monday.

AGGI is the new holding firm of property tycoon Andrew Tan.

Hot . . .

From page B1

sumption, as well as an increase in government spending.

"Reports of strong first-quarter performance of several big corporations also had a positive effect on (the sentiment of) investors," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

Tetangco said the rise in foreign portfolio investments was partly a reason for the recent strengthening of the peso, which now hovers in the 46-to-a-dollar territory, its highest in almost seven years.

In turn, the appreciation of the peso has benefited investors with placements in peso-denominated stocks and bonds.

"The continued appreciation of the peso has resulted in substantial foreign exchange gains for investors, with peso divestment proceeds fetching a higher equivalent in foreign exchange for repatriation purposes," Tetangco said.

In May alone, gross inflows of foreign portfolio investments reached $1.44 billion, surging by 85 percent from the $780 million registered in the same month last year.

The BSP said 73 percent of the gross investments in May were placed in stocks listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange. Most of these stock-market investments were poured in banks and property-development firms.

CURRENCIES

June 15, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.751202	1.000000	46.5090
Japan	Yen	0.006114	0.008139	0.3785
United Kingdom	Pound	1.479793	1.969900	91.6181
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.096101	0.127930	5.9499
Switzerland	Franc	0.602746	0.802375	37.3177
Canada	Dollar	0.703043	0.935891	43.5274
Singapore	Dollar	0.487129	0.648466	30.1595
Australia	Dollar	0.627308	0.835073	38.8384
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.992684	2.652661	123.3726
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.200304	0.266645	12.4014
Brunei	Dollar	0.485555	0.646371	30.0621
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000083	0.000110	0.0051
Thailand	Baht	0.023221	0.030912	1.4377
UAE	Dirham	0.204537	0.272279	12.6634
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.331200	61.9128
Korea	Won	0.000808	0.001076	0.0500
China	Yuan**	0.098287	0.130839	6.0852
Argentina	Peso	0.244452	0.325415	15.1347
Brazil	Real	0.388921	0.517732	24.0792
Denmark	Kroner	0.134345	0.178840	8.3177
India	Rupee	0.018484	0.024606	1.1444
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.216922	0.288767	13.4303
Mexico	New Peso	0.069102	0.091988	4.2783
New Zealand	Dollar	0.563627	0.750300	34.8957
South Africa	Rand	0.104697	0.139373	6.4821
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022707	0.030228	1.4059

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—June 14, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of June 14, 2007

Stock prices . . .

From page B1

highs. PLDT was higher in the US. There is persistent optimism that the market has still more upside due to positive economic and corporate numbers," said Oliver Plana, head of sales at Asiasec Equities Inc.

PLDT gained P10 to close at P2,705 after its American Deposit Receipts (ADRs) on the New York Stock Exchange rose 1.38 percent overnight.

Ayala Corp. was up 6.4 percent or P35 to P580 while Ayala Land rose 1.4 percent to P17.75.

More than 176 million class "A" and "B" shares of San Miguel, representing 5.59 percent of the company, were involved in the block sales yesterday. Market sources said the Social Security System (SSS) sold its shares to the San Miguel Retirement Plan, San Miguel's pension fund for employees.

The San Miguel Retirement Plan earlier bought the entire 6 percent of pension fund Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

Market analysts expect the stock index to test 3,800 and 4,000 in the short-term.

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to the
RE-INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF AGUSTA HELICOPTER

In connection with the Invitation to bid published yesterday, June 15, 2007, please be guided that the receipt and opening of bids is on July 13, 2007 and NOT June 13, 2007 as published.

Please be guided accordingly.

(Sgd.) PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.
Deputy Administrator and
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(PDI–June 16, 2007)

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- Interested applicants must submit accredited copies of their academic training certificates.
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SCIENCE/HEALTH

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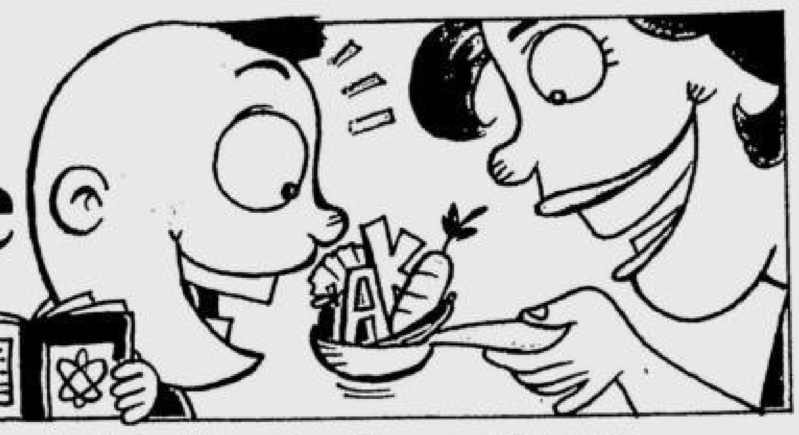
Kids' poor school showing caused by low vegetable intake



By Charles E. Buban

OUR MOTHER WAS right all along. We really should eat our vegetables.

While a lot of us may have probably squirmed or protested whenever she serves us dishes with ampalaya, okra or squash dish, science these days is reaffirming why this much-maligned mother's advice should be followed.

Results from the 6th National Nutrition Surveys conducted by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute show that an average Filipino child, aged 6 months to 5 years, consumes only 23 grams of vegetables a day or half of the recommended daily amount.

Such poor diet is now being attributed to the sub par performance of more than 1.5 million public school sixth graders who took the recent national achievement test conducted by the Department of Education.

Poor scores

The DepEd reported that these sixth graders scored poorly in Math (53.66 percent), English (46.77 percent), as well as Science (54.05 percent).

Another trend noted was the four percent drop in the correctly answered items, from 58.73 percent in school year 2004-2005 to 54.66 percent in SY 2005-2006.

The NAT is designed to assess the abilities and skills of Grade 6 pupils in five subject areas: English, Filipino, Science, Hekasi (Heograpiya, Kasaysayan at Sibika) and Mathematics.

According to Dr. Mario Villasaya Capanzana, director of the FNRI-Department of Science and Technology, these schoolchildren are not necessarily dumb or suffering from any learning disorders but rather, they may be just easily exhausted, inattentive, can't concentrate, or lethargic in class.

Not enough supply

For Dr. Jose Chuaunsu, consultant at the Manila Doctors Hospital Department of Pediatrics, these could also be signs that these schoolchildren are not getting enough supply of two of the most important micronutrients found in vegetables—Vitamin A and Iron—that may result in Vitamin A deficiency and iron deficiency anemia.

According to the World Health Organization, micronutrients are called as such because they are needed only in minuscule amounts. However, the consequences of their absence are severe because they act as "magic wands" that enable the body to produce enzymes, hormones and other substances essential for proper growth and development.

For example, the lack of vitamin A in children could result in visual impairment and even blindness. Having such condition also diminishes a child's ability to fight infections.

Similarly, the lack of iron in children contributes to short attention span, apathy, irritability, decreased physical activity, impaired cognitive development and even the inability to absorb Vitamin A properly.

Easily remedied

According to Capanzana, the problem, though serious, is easily remedied by simply encouraging children to eat more vegetables as well as fruits and root crops that should correct their micronutrient deficiencies.

"In fact, one cup or 90 grams of vegetables like ampalaya, okra and squash (at least half a serving or 45 grams for children below 6) can go a long way toward ensuring better health as well as improving micronutrient intake," he assured.

Chuaunsu added that parents should feed their children what they need and not what their children would most likely prefer (sweets, processed food or those so-called empty-calorie food like potato chips, soft drinks, deep-fried foods).

Urge vegetable eating

In fact, the doctor together with Capanzana has recently coordinated with Unilever Philippines when the company launched an advocacy to encourage vegetable eating.

The advocacy titled "Makulay ang Buhay sa Sinabawang Gulay" by Unilever Knorr teaches household how to prepare different vegetable dishes that would appeal to children's palates.

"Parents must be role models by exposing their children to vegetables early on. They could prepare a simple broth of beans, potatoes, corn, legumes and other green and leafy vegetables. While these vegetables will help their children later on in life fight diseases like diabetes and cancer, they will also help build up their immune system, help their brain develop fully as well as improve their learning skills," Chuaunsu reminded.

Good news in Science

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

WHEN GOOD NEWS RAINS, IT POURS. Last April 22, I featured the Filipino student winners of the local Intel Talent Search, who represented our country in the International Science and Engineering Fair (the world's biggest) in Albuquerque, New Mexico, United States last month.

Good news! The Pinoy team garnered two Fourth Grand Awards, one Team Projects Fourth Grand Award, and a Special Award. Melvyn Carlo Barroa of Capiz National High School in Roxas City, who studied a potential antibiotic produced from fish, and Hester Mana Umayam of the Philippine Science High School Cagayan Valley Campus, who explored geometric patterns of Kalinga woven fabric, both won Fourth Grand Awards. Team project winners were Philippine Science High School Quezon City students Ivy Razel Ventura, Janine Cindy Santiago and Mara Elaine Villaverde for their study of a potential agent in tumor research. Luiji John Karlo Suarez of Doña Hortencia Salas Benedicto National High School in La Carlota City won a Scholarship Award from the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance/The Lemelson Foundation for his research on controlling bacteria infection in plants.

Congratulations, young scientists! You have done us proud.

Science CDs

More good news! According to Cynthia Gayya of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), science animation is now available for public schools. Last November, interactive, user-friendly animations of science and math lessons on CD were launched by the Science Education Institute of the DOST.

The modules were developed for public elementary schools, aiming to raise student interest in these subjects, and eventually, to upgrade the quality of education in the country. Two sets of 41 lessons in science for Grades 3 to 6, and 60 lessons in math for Grades 1 to 6 will be distributed to approximately 35,000 public schools this school year, starting with schools that already have computers.

Science and math teachers from the Department of Education, as well as subject area specialists from the Philippine Normal University developed the modules. DOST's Advanced Science and Technology Institute also translated the modules in its current format, which can run on either Microsoft or Linux operating platforms.

Among selected lessons for science are the eclipse, stars, tropical cyclones, excretory system, reproduction, metamorphic rocks, earthquakes, volcanoes and tides. For math lessons, there are presentations on time, shapes, measures of weight, and fractions.

I hope that public schools will get these materials soon.

Brain Storm Café

Still more good news! I received this e-mail from Dennis Posadas [dennisposadas@yahoo.com] of the University of the Philippines (UP) at Diliman:

Few people know that we already have a shrine to Filipino innovation here at UP Diliman. With the support of a few people and companies/institutions, we have been able to collect some technology memorabilia that have been posted at the lobby of the UP Ayala Tech Business Incubator. When you come here, you will see a coffee shop (Brain Storm Café) with memorabilia on the walls of the lobby.

At present, we have the first locally designed chips from Intel Philippines; two US patent plaques from physicist-engineer Gregory Tangonan; paper of physicist Cesar Saloma and his National Institute of Physics team, dubbed by the Optics Society of America as "one of the most exciting for 2006"; picture of Rover gadget designed by Vic Gruet and Chicho Mantaring; Red Herring Award for Winston Damarillo; and INQUIRER *article on biologist Baldomero Olivera, awarded Harvard Scientist of 2007.*

I hope this coffee shop cum museum will be a source of inspiration for Filipinos everywhere.

Fathers and sons

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

SOME DAUGHTERS MAY BE PROUD bearers of the title "Daddy's girl," but it doesn't replace the societal value placed on the label of "son." This idea of having a son to carry the family name and legacy forward is one many cultures hold dear, sometimes excessively.

Not long after China first implemented its one-child policy to keep its population in check, for example, stories started appearing in the media about the nation's preference for boys over girls and how girl babies were found abandoned and exposed shortly after birth.

A new incentive

Back in January, a study from the Journal of the National Cancer Institute proposed a new incentive for having sons. According to lead author and epidemiologist Susan Harlap of Columbia University, men who only fathered daughters have an increased relative risk of prostate cancer compared with men who fathered at least one son.

This intriguing conclusion was based on data collected from over 40,000 men from the Israeli part of Jerusalem who fathered children between 1964 and 1976. Analyzing the data, Harlap, along with colleagues from Columbia University and at Hebrew University, found 712 men who had been diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Risk factors

Further subdividing the men with prostate cancer into groups based on the number of male or female offspring each had, Harlap et al. calculated the relative risk of prostate cancer for each group compared to one another. A third of the original group diagnosed with prostate cancer had only fathered daughters, and it was these men who were found to have a higher relative risk of prostate cancer compared to the men who fathered at least one son during the 13-year study period.

Before further reading of this study strains family relations, there are significant caveats associated with the study that are worth mentioning here. One of them has to do with the absence of an important piece of data. Prostate cancer, one might recall, is known to have several risk factors associated with the disease. A man's age, ethnic origin, and possibly even his diet fall into this category. Family history is another important factor; the risk of having prostate cancer increases if a man's father or brother has also been diagnosed with it. The study Harlap et al. used for their analysis did not include this information.

Timeframe of the study

The second and more interesting point against Harlap et al.'s study again involves the timeframe of the study. Any children born to the men before 1964 or after 1976 were not included in the analysis. "There is, however, no reason to suspect that the 712 men diagnosed with prostate cancer would have sired a different proportion of males outside of 1964-1976," the authors note.

Still, they add, "any misclassification within the group of men in which we observed no sons would have biased the relative risk toward the null." In short, if any or all of the 252 men who only had daughters in the study had fathered sons either before or after the 13-year study period, that increased relative risk associated with having only daughters might not actually exist because the number of fathers who had only daughters could change drastically and affect the calculations.

Harlap et al.'s conclusion might make some value sons more over daughters, but hopefully the arguments against doing so are convincing enough to prevent a bias that could affect family harmony. The impact of a father, or father figure, in a child's life is undeniable. Unsurprisingly, the role of a father, and its accompanying responsibilities, leaves its mark on a man as well. Father's Day may not be as widely celebrated as Mother's Day, but hopefully this year, families will celebrate the ties that bind a father and his children together, and not the notion that a son could lower his father's relative risk of cancer.

* * *

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.

High Cholesterol?
A healthy stomach helps prevent heart disease

Hypercholesterolemia refers to a high cholesterol level in the body, primarily caused by eating foods rich in saturated fats. Because this condition causes deposits of fats in the bloodstream, it increases the risk of heart disease. When fat deposits become sufficiently large, they block the blood vessels and decrease blood flow. This may ultimately lead to a stroke or heart attack.

Hypercholesterolemia is a silent killer -- there are no overt symptoms, as it is only determined by a blood test or after a stroke occurs.

Fight back with fiber!

Daily fiber intake can help prevent heart disease. According to the American Heart Association, "certain soluble fibers (e.g., psyllium) reduce LDL cholesterol, particularly in hypercholesterolemic individuals". The US FDA also stated that " eating soluble fiber from foods such as psyllium husk, as part of a diet low in saturated fat and cholesterol, may reduce the risk of heart disease".

C-Lium Fibre is a 100% natural soluble dietary fiber without artificial flavors, sweeteners, and preservatives. Made from 100% psyllium husk, C-Lium Fibre binds with the cholesterol secreted in bile acids and excretes it before it is absorbed in the bloodstream.

More health benefits with fiber

C-Lium Fibre promotes a healthy digestive system and helps in blood sugar control to prevent diabetes. What's more, a daily dose of C-Lium Fibre aids in fat absorption, relieving indigestion, and reducing acidity.

Start taking C-Lium Fibre today and discover a healthier lifestyle!

C-Lium Fibre comes in powder (jar or sachet) and capsules.
Available at Mercury Drug and other leading drugstores and supermarkets nationwide

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PASCUAL LABORATORIES, INC.
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Moms urged to exclusively breastfeed for 6 months

THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) has urged mothers to breastfeed their children in the first hour of life and continue to do so for the next six months, without resorting to bottle feeding.

Said WHO country representative Dr. Jean-Marc Olivé in announcing World Breastfeeding Week 2007, from Aug. 1 to 7: "It is beyond dispute that breast milk is the safest, easiest and least expensive way to protect a child's health in the vital first years of life. Breast milk offers a newly born the perfect mix of nutrients and is full of antibodies. It constitutes the first immunization a child receives."

Olivé said each year 16,000 Philippine children die before their fifth birthday because of inappropriate feeding practices. "Many of these deaths could be avoided if the mothers breastfed their children," he said.

New evidence

The theme for World Breastfeeding Week 2007, "Breastfeeding: The 1st Hour—Save One Million Babies!," highlights new evidence that if all women begin breastfeeding within one hour after their child's birth, it would prevent one million newborn deaths globally. The study, conducted in Ghana, Africa, showed 41 percent of all babies who die during the first two to 20 hours of their lives could have been saved. World Breastfeeding Week incorporates International Breastfeeding Day on Aug. 1.

Olivé added that "In the Philippines, baby-friendly hospitals are vital in promoting breastfeeding and in helping ensure quality of care for all mothers. At the same time, strengthening and ensuring compliance with the 1986 Milk Code (authored by then President Corazon C. Aquino,) will help protect mothers from misleading information that affects their decision to initiate and maintain breastfeeding."

The Milk Code underscores the need to protect and promote breastfeeding and recommends the appropriate regulation of marketing and distribution of substitutes and related products.

WHO recommends that mothers start breastfeeding one hour after birth, that they breastfeed exclusively for the first six months and then continue breastfeeding up to two years and beyond. Appropriate additional foods that are safe and affordable, should be introduced, to complement breastfeeding, from about six months.

More than 20 studies conducted around the world have shown that heavy economic losses are associated with the use of milk substitutes rather than breast milk.

Global innovation in nursing education

THE PROLIFERATION OF NURSING SCHOOLS has empowered students and parents to be more selective when it comes to choosing which institution to enroll in. Aside from possessing strong credentials as well as an excellent faculty and staff, the nursing school must now also be affordable and accessible. It must now also give you an advantage not just in terms of training, but also in employability. And its curriculum must be adequately dynamic and innovative so as to produce graduates that are competitive not just locally but globally.

Innovation. Value for your money. Professionalism. These are some of the words that come to mind when talking about Global City Innovative College, or GCIC as its students fondly call it. It has gone a long way since its humble beginnings in 2002 and has stayed adamantly true to its core values of Leadership, Excellence and Community, building a reputation of having an innovative program, great teachers, outstanding facilities, an excellent location and most of all, amazingly affordable tuition.

At the core of GCIC's success is its Nursing Program, which has been guided and improved through the years by dedicated people who have the experience, the heart and the passion for educating its students. Aside from having training affiliations with well-known medical institutions that include Cardinal Santos Medical Center as its base hospital, and St. Luke's Medical Center and V. Luna Medical Center for key rotations, the GCIC Nursing Program implemented the following upgrades to further the development of its nursing students:

It got its CHED recognition permit in 2006 (CHED Government Recognition No. 037 Series of 2006). It was one of the first integrate TOEFL and TSE training in its English subjects. And it implemented its innovative Nursing Enhancement/Audit Program to improve preparation and readiness to pass the Nursing board exam. This last has been witnessed through the fact that 75 percent of its first batch had passed the NLE or Nursing Licensure Exam.

Aside from these, GCIC offers its students centralized air-conditioning for its entire campus, and is easily accessible through public and private transport-a mere 5 to 10-minute walk to and from Edsa. Its tuition for an incoming freshman hovers around P23,000, very reasonable considering the facilities and location it provides compared to other nursing schools. GCIC also accepts transferees and foreign students.

GCIC recognizes the value of training a well-rounded graduate. Thus, various extra curricular activities are encouraged from the students through participation in different student organizations and institutional activities. The college also has a strong community-based immersion program under the direction of dean Constancia Pitpitan.

For those who wish to pursue other careers, GCIC offers other BS courses in Education and BSBA Major in Management. Also offered are Tesda courses that train Caregivers for Japan. Since GCIC has maintained a 100 percent passing rate for all its caregiver graduates, and includes Nihonggo as part of its program, it has been approached by about 10 different Japanese nursing homes looking for well-trained caregivers

Upon graduation, GCIC takes care of its graduating students through their Career Assistance & Resource Office (CARe) where they will be guided on their professional career paths locally and abroad.

Looking ahead, GCIC is set to offer Hospitality Management/HRM for SY2008-2009 with, of course, innovations catering to the needs of the industry.

All in all GCIC is focused in providing everyone equal opportunity and the best service to its students. With its vision "to be an educational center of excellence," GCIC constantly looks for students with the skill and talent that will contribute to this vision.

Now aren't those the characteristics of a good school? Come see for yourself. Global City Innovative College is located at the 3/f Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St., corner 2nd Ave., Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City Taguig 1634 with telephone numbers 757-5588 to 91, mobile number 09189247810 and e-mail at info@gcic.edu.ph.

BREAKFAST STOP

ALASKA SLIM, KELLOGG'S CAP PROMO

Alaska Slim and Kellogg's Cereals 'Breakfast Stop,' a raffle promo exclusive for Gold's Gym members was held recently at Gold's Gym Galleria. Hundreds of Gold's Gym members participated in the exclusive draw where a Sony Wega TV, a Nokia 93, Oakley Thump, X Box and P 10,000 worth of gift certificates from Speedo were given away as prizes. On hand to witness the draw were (from left): Rosanna B. De Dios, senior brand manager RTD Milks; Marie Camille Angluben, brand assistant; Tony Gonzales, Gold's Gym general manager; Ana Bathan, BFAD representative, and; Ramon Sheodore R. Villaflor Sr. market manager, Kellogg's Asia Marketing.

UPSE Alumni Homecoming

THE UP SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS IN DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY WILL hold its General Alumni Homecoming on Sept. 15, Saturday at 3:30 p.m. at the UPSE Auditorium. The event entitled 'reunion82 @upse.come' will have the class of 1982 as Silver Jubilarians. All alumni are requested to update their personal information by calling Ricky Jacinto at 841-5317 or lawyer Noli del Rosario at 395-2336 or by e-mailing delrosario_noli@yahoo.com.

ProductFILES

Popshop addresses the need for contraceptive products

Your Popular Choice
POP SHOP
MAMBUSAO, CAPIZ

THE POPSHOP IS A STORE WITHIN A CLINIC that serves as a one-stop shop for couples' contraceptive product needs. It offers high-quality affordable contraceptives, such as generic and branded oral contraceptive pills, injectable contraceptives, and condoms. By making contraceptive products readily available and accessible to couples, families are better managed and communities are better served. The Popshop is especially designed for health providers and LGUs who have limited funds to procure their own contraceptive supplies. It offers easy repayment schemes and keeps the goal of making the Popshop's operation sustainable. By franchising a Popshop, they can have access to Trust Family Program products, technical assistance, information materials, aggressive marketing support, and at the same time, earn a modest income. Many local government officials, NGOs, midwives and other health service providers in the country are now beginning to see the benefits of having a Popshop installed in their local communities. Since DKT designed the Popshop with a cost-recovery mechanism, it becomes cost efficient and a self-sustaining initiative for LGUs, NGOs, and health care providers. The Popshop can be an alternative source of revenue, which can be used to sustain the continuous procurement of contraceptive products. DKT's banner program, the Trust Family Program and the Popshop, intends to make safe, effective, high-quality, and affordable contraceptive products widely accessible to Filipino couples and individuals who want to manage their fertility and plan their families. For more information on how to become a Popshop franchisee, call (02) 6333-TFP/(02) 6333-837, text (0917)823-1111, or log on to www.popshop.com.ph. You can also text your inquiries to Joseph Richard Loredo at 0918-8367254, Edwin "Aljed" Alejo at 0918-8285067, or Maita Mabini at 0918-8367258.

Benefits of condo living with Edsa Grand

IF YOU ARE FED UP WITH DAILY LONG rides to the office, killer traffic jams and smog, why not consider buying a condo? You will be amazed how owning one could literally transform your daily road nightmares into one of pleasant experience without getting late for work again. Of course, owning a condo offers other great benefits that far eclipse owning a conventional home that are usually located in the outskirts of the city, away from work places and other recreational zones. Owning a residential condominium unit has been proven not only as an exceptional way for urban dwellers to live in peaceful surrounding, the ease that normally accompanies condo living is in itself an added value.

Edsa Grand Residences official Patrick Tai noted that condo buyers usually look for a place that they can be proud to own, to live in or to rent out - without being trapped in Metro Manila's traffic prone streets. It also has to be affordable that will offer buyers unmatchable value for their money while having the easiest access to the city's main arteries, proximity to social, medical and even recreation spots or workplaces.

Tai noted that Edsa Grand in Quezon City easily offers the best deal for any prospective buyers at probably the most affordable price for its class anywhere in the metropolis. "One can own a unit at Edsa Grand for as little as P10,588 a month," he said. He further explained that price is only one among many reasons prospective buyers opt to own a unit at the 30-storey Edsa Grand development. "Not all condominium projects share the same value and guaranteed return to initial investments to buyers," he observed. Tai explained that buyers need to realize that location is one of the single most important considerations when opting to purchase a condo unit. The reason couldn't be more straightforward; a condo perched on a great location will experience greater appreciation both in actual value and in rental income, which is also an excellent opportunity for condo owners to use to pay part of their mortgage or other expenses.

Moreover, condo dwellers may take advantage of amenities provided by the developer at a minimal cost like the one offered by Edsa Grand which include a grand lobby, commercial shops at the lower and upper ground floors, a swimming pool and children wading pool, a sauna and fitness center, a multi-purpose hall and a function room. Tai further explained that a condo is for those who wish to delegate to others the obligation of repair and security so that unit owners or renters could live without the baggage of worries of maintenance.

These are just some of the amenities that condo dwellers experience at practically no cost since these are managed by the project's association, especially if the developer is respected in the industry like Edsa Grand Realty and Development Corp, a multiple winner in the recent Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards.

Detailed information on Edsa Grand Residences and Adriatico Grand Residences is available at www.edsagrand.com or you may contact Clarisse at 456-4750 or 0917-5396888 and look for Khadine.

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
Building 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos. 893-6001 to 47 local 2104
Direct Line: 840-1614/Fax No.: (632) 840-1619

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC), through its 2007 Corporate Budget, intends to apply the sum of Two Million Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php2,250,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, CONFIGURATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF A BUDGET AND PLANNING SYSTEM FOR THE COMPANY** (herein referred to as the "Project"). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the bid opening.

PNOC EC now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the **SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, CONFIGURATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF A BUDGET AND PLANNING SYSTEM FOR FIVE (5) CONCURRENT USERS OF THE COMPANY.**

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty (60%) percent interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the Project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders from PNOC EC's Contracts and Procurement Section (c/o Ms. J. C. Fabian) starting June 14, 2007 at the PNOC EC Head Office located at Building 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos (Php1,000.00).

PNOC EC will hold a Pre-bid Conference open to all interested parties on **June 25, 2007, 2:00 P.M.** at the PNOC EC Head Office Conference Room.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted in two (2) sets each to PNOC EC's Bids and Awards Committee not later than **2:00 P.M.** on **July 9, 2007**. The bids, including the eligibility requirements, shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter. **Late Bids shall not be accepted.**

PNOC EC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

This publication is also posted in our website at **www.pnoc-ec.com.ph**, in the DBM website at **www.procurementservice.net**, and in the June 16 and 19 issues of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

(Sgd.) The Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – June 16 & 19, 2007)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5389

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

3,500 cu. meter aggregate base course and 2,904 cu. meter surfacing material under GH 706274

Approved Budget PHP 4,162,600.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at PNOC-EDC NNGP Logistics Section c/o **Mila B. Arana** starting **June 15, 2007**, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 1,500.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **June 26, 2007, 2:00 p.m.** at the Conference Room, PNOC-EDC NNGPF, Brgy. Mailum, Bago City, Negros Occidental.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Logistics Section, Mailum Base Camp, Barangay Mailum, Bago City and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. of July 10, 2007**. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I

(PDI–June 16, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: member_relations@sss.gov.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph

NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

	NAME OF BENEFICIARIES	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1)	Sarah B. Abaya	Raniag, Ramon, Isabela	Romeo Abaya SS#03-9307463-3	November 20, 2006
2)	Belen Addatu	Sitio Oreta, Antipolo City	Rodolfo Addatu SS#03-2084182-6	August 10, 2006
3)	Anita C. Fernandez	101 Capt. Rufino St., Angono, Rizal	Sotero Alonzo, Jr. SS#03-1844425-1	October 5, 2006
4)	Narcisa Tabarez	Sitio Kabilang Tabi, Pila-pila, Binangonan, Rizal	Domingo Arabit SS#03-4724537-9	February 5, 2007
5)	Josephine S. Lopez	3121 Reposo St., Old Sta. Mesa, Manila	Norberto Arcilla SS#03-3382200-7	January 18, 2007
6)	Erlinda R. Panlo	Unknown	Edwin V. Bongolonta SS#03-6837858-4	December 23, 2006
7)	Valentina M. Caspe	Blk 165 Lot 5 Ph 4-A, Paliparan 3, Dasmariñas, Cavite	Proculo P. Caspe SS#03-3037903-2	April 9, 2007
8)	Juliana Obregon	Unknown	Ruben De Guia SS#03-2570879-9	January 6, 2007
9)	Loida Diolata	24 B Pag-asa St., Taytay, Rizal	Roger Diolata SS#03-2175642-8	February 3, 2007
10)	Alicia P. Diso	2472-C G. del Pilar St., Singalong, Metro Manila	Rafael Diso SS#03-3126312-1	February 24, 2007
11)	Maria Dos Remedios	Unknown	Ricardo Dos Remedios SS#03-0637764-4	October 14, 1995
12)	Eufemia Loquez Emalyn Galicha	35 A Bonifacio Arty Subd., Valenzuela, Bulacan	Vicente Galicha SS#03-2173069-3	November 19, 2006
13)	Sterling O. Gardner	Olongapo City	Teresita C. Gardner SS#02-0322318-9	December 21, 2006
14)	Leticia Arevalo	Naval St., Malaya, Pililia, Rizal	Mauro Gellido, Jr. SS#04-0175988-2	December 6, 2005
15)	Elisa Importante	Unknown	Rodrigo Importante SS#03-0200961-5	April 2, 2007
16)	Cecilia Tamayo Junio Marilyn & Marites	Robina Farms, No. 10, Antipolo, Rizal	Carlito M. Junio SS#03-3635557-1	September 4, 2006
17)	Judith Dimaano	Unknown	Ernesto L. Lopina SS#05-0076896-5	December 28, 2006
18)	Carmencita Emolino	#394 Quirino Ave., Dungalo, Parañaque, Rizal	Rolando C. Lorenzo SS#03-1281208-3	January 10, 2007
19)	Crispolo Mejica	Mialen Clarin, Misamis Occidental	Elena Dula Mejica SS#08-2171581-7	February 26, 2006
20)	Nora Mila Imelda Mila Ma. Rhoda Mila	Unknown	Diego Mila SS#03-1282418-1	March 23, 2007
21)	Corazon Luna	1136 Mabuhay St., Tondo, Manila	Aniceto Najarila SS#03-0113301-6	October 10, 2005
22)	Remy B. Duran	43 Bonifacio Village, Binondo, Manila	Prudencio Pagad SS#33-1645858-9	June 3, 2003
23)	Fernando Hufancia Jr.	Unknown	Erlina R. Quijano SS#03-5308790-3	March 20, 2007
24)	Alejandra Orliano	6688 Taylo St., Makati, Rizal	Angelito Rante SS#03-2446798-9	March 15, 2007
25)	Marcia/Marciana Galos Rivera	028 Bethlehem St., Nazareth, Parañaque City	Hermes M. Rivera SS#33-3649816-2	January 14, 2007
26)	Estrella Santiago	Unknown	Virgilio M. Santiago SS#03-0721868-9	March 29, 2007
27)	Lydia Tejada	8 Potsdam St., Cubao, Quezon City	Bienvenido Tejada SS#33-1029928-1	June 8, 2006
28)	Wilma C. Torres	Robina Farms #1, Antipolo, Rizal	Rustico D. Torres SS#03-4494726-9	January 14, 2007
29)	Estrellita Valdez	Camiling, Tarlac	Reynaldo Valdez SS#03-5737818-4	January 27, 2007
30)	Cristita Landa	163 A. Luna San Juan, Rizal	Charlemagne V. Villaraza, SS#03-2393078-9	March 10, 2006

– Nothing Follows –

(PDI – June 16, 2007)

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Bataan Economic Zone, Mariveles, Bataan
Telephone (6347) 935-4004; 561-2451 Fax (6347) 935-6046

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY-BATAAN ECONOMIC ZONE (PEZA-BEZ), through its Corporate Budget for the CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of Php 3,094,444.80 being the **Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)** to payments under the contract for the **Solid Waste Collection and Hauling at the Bataan Economic Zone** located at BEZ, Mariveles, Bataan. The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) was derived from the fixed rate of P69.32 per cubic meter of solid waste times the variable volume of 44,640 cubic meter of solid waste a year. Bids received in excess of the fixed rate of P69.32 per cubic meter shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.
2. The PEZA-BEZ now invites sealed Bids from Eligible Bidders for the above mentioned contract as described below:
   Brief Description : Supply of Labor, Tools, Equipment and Supervision
   Contract Duration : One (1) calendar year
   Delivery Period : Within 15 days after Notice to Proceed
   The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **INSTRUCTION TO BIDDERS (ITB).**
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform ACT", and is restricted to Filipino citizens/ sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines, or to citizens of or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from PEZA-BEZ and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Mondays to Fridays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from 18 to 22 June 2007, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from the address below upon submission of a **Letter of Intent** (LOI) and a certified copy of their **Phil GEPS Registration Certificate** and the **BIR e-fps Enrollment Certificate** upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos only (Php 1,000.00). The method of payment will be on a **cash basis** only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The PEZA-BEZ will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on July 02, 2007, 2:00 p.m. at the Audio-Visual Room, 2nd Floor, BEZ Administration Building, BEZ, Mariveles, Bataan.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 1:30 P.M. of July 16, 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable Letter of Credit in the amount of not less than Php 30,944.44, Bank Guarantee in the amount of not less than Php 46,416.66 or in the form of Surety Bond in the amount of not less than Php 77,361.10. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on July 16, 2007 at 2:00 P.M. at the Audio-Visual Room, 2nd Floor, BEZ Administration Building, BEZ, Mariveles, Bataan. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
9. In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day.
10. The PEZA-BEZ reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Philippine Economic Zone Authority-BEZ
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
EMD Office, Ground Floor, BEZ
Administration Building, BEZ, Mariveles, Bataan
Tel. Nos. (047) 935-4008 / Fax No. (047) 935-6046
E-mail – **bez_bacl@yahoo.com**
Website: **www.peza.gov.ph**

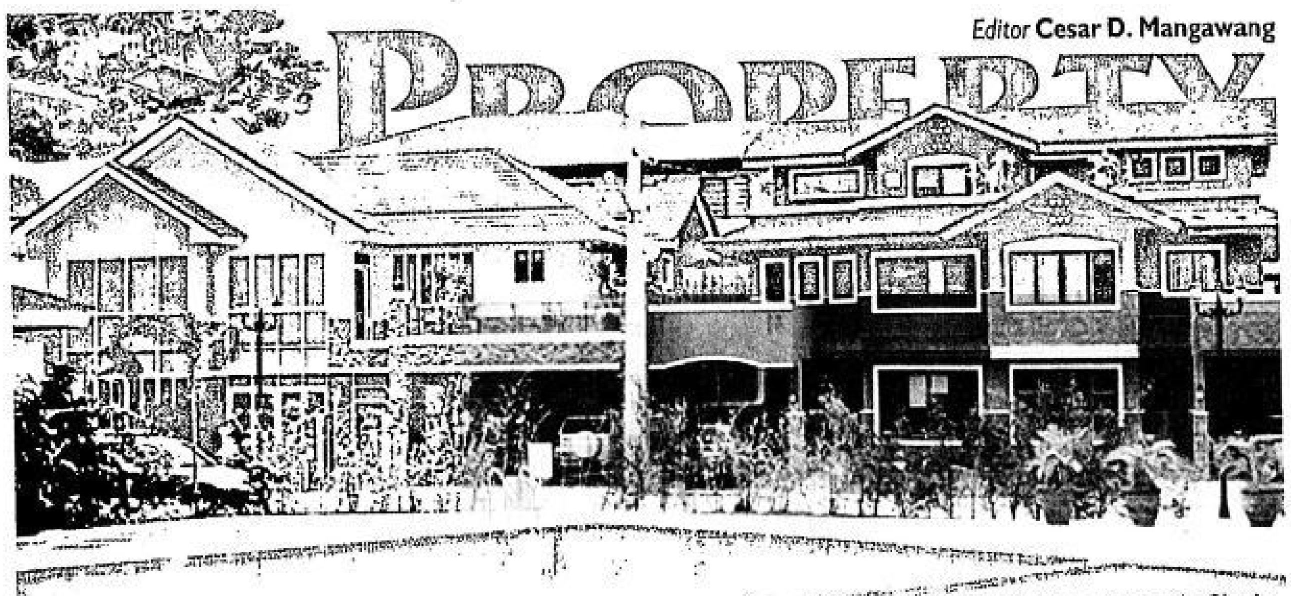
(Sgd.) **DIONISIO T. SAMEN**
BEZ-BAC Chairman

Noted:
(Sgd.) **DANTE M. QUINDOZA**
Zone Administrator

(PDI – June 9 & 16, 2007)

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

PROPERTY



MAHOGANY Place in Taguig City is one of DMCI's projects where home buyers could avail of UCPB's special financing package.

P500-M home financing for 19 DMCI projects

By Charles E. Buban

WITH OVERSEAS Filipino workers (OFWs), young professionals and newlyweds in mind, DM Consunji Inc. recently teamed up with United Coconut Planters Bank to come up with a special financing arrangement to attract this particular group of home buyers looking into the property developer's mid-range projects.

UCPB, the country's leading provider of financial products and services to corporations, middle-market companies, small- and medium-sized businesses, and consumers, is earmarking P500 million for this special home-financing scheme, according to UCPB vice president for real estate loans Lee de Claro.

Claro says the arrangement will benefit a lot of home buyers considering DMCI is one the biggest property developers in the country with real estate sales of P4.2 billon in 2006 and P3.2 billion as of May 2007.

19 residential projects

Claro adds that the financing agreement will cover DMCI's 19 residential projects consisting of mid-rise and high-rise residential condominiums in Metro Manila and houses and lots in Taguig City and in the provinces of Cavite and Rizal.

The 19 DMCI projects covered by the agreement are Morning Sun Homes, East Ortigas Mansions, Springlane Homes 1 and 2, Rainbow Ridge Mansions, Mahogany Place 1, Raya Gardens, Rosewood Pointe, Cypress Gardens, Lakeview Manors, Mayfield Park Residences, Vista De Lago, Bonifacio Heights, Dansalan Gardens, Palm Grove, Hampstead Gardens, Tivoli Garden Residences, Woodland Hills and The Manors: Celebrity Place.

The price of these properties ranges between P1.4 million and P4 million.

Under the agreement, UCPB will provide DMCI's home buyers higher financing amount equivalent to 80 percent of the property's appraised value with repayment period of up to 15 years.

Claro added that UCPB will also release the loan proceeds immediately upon the buyers putting up a mere 10 percent down payment so the buyers can immediately move in to their property.

The 10 percent balance will be payable to DMCI over a period of 40 months.

Standard financing

The standard financing is only 70 percent of appraised value. In other words, the buyers will have to put up a 30 percent equity before they can avail themselves of the financing.

DMCI president Isidro Consunji says relaxing the requirement will make it easier for their home buyers to finally acquire homes of their own considering the 30 percent equity is what makes it difficult for most middle-income and OFW families to access home financing.

As UCPB aggressively pushes for a bigger share of the consumer loan market (in fact, is targeting new loan booking of P1.9 billion this year), De Claro says the bank will be working on similar special home financing tie-ups with other prime developers in Metro Manila and key provincial cities to boost its mortgage loan volumes.

As of the end of April, the bank has already booked P638 million, 60 percent higher than P397 million in the same period last year.

DMCI'S EAST Ortigas Mansions is a private enclave of low-rise condominiums located in Pasig City

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How to extend the life span of buildings

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus

RECYCLE, REUSE, REPAIR AND REMANUFACTURE are green keywords that we will be using more and more in our times. Otherwise, at the rate we are using our resources and maximizing comfort, what we will leave future generations is a big question mark.

Green building development looks at wood, minerals and other natural materials contained in our urban buildings inventory and how they are utilized. This building development is fast growing in inverse proportion to our natural resources.

Walking the green line today means looking at our existing buildings as resource stock instead of potential waste when after 40 years or so, building owners decide to demolish a building.

Reasons for demolition

There are many reasons old buildings are demolished. These include changes in the use of the site, changes in site conditions, space shortage due to increase in building users, deterioration of building parts, necessity of equipment renewal, increase in maintenance costs, changes in land ownership and changes in building use.

The life span of a building is the amount of time from the completion of a building until its demolition. Green advocates introduce the idea of design span which considers the longer performance and utility of a building beyond its current use.

To minimize environmental impact made by demolish-and-build on our natural resources and waste disposal capacity, the trend is fast moving toward designing for adaptability to future needs.

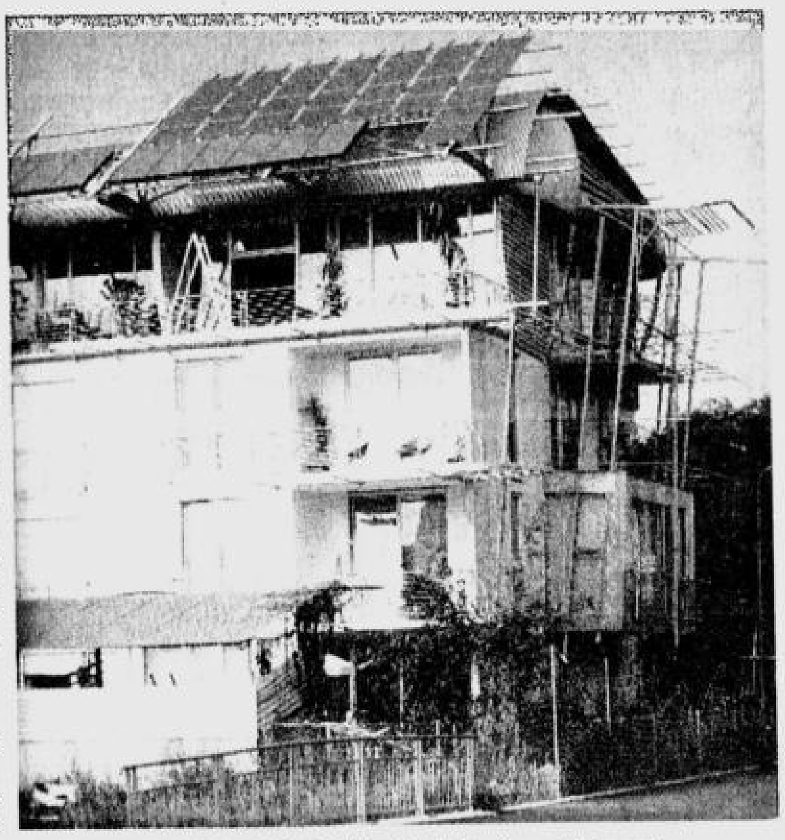
Architectural design teams are resorting to programming or identifying the type, size, use and space requirements of a project. Green developers help designers to identify and understand the users' current needs, as well as possible changing needs over the years.

As early as the schematic design phase, plans are made for what a building might become once its current use lapses. For example, structural provisions for additional floors are incorporated early in the design process. Electrical wiring and plumbing systems, floor plans and building façades are designed to facilitate future changes. Low maintenance and durability are evaluated in the design and material selection process. Low-impact maintenance procedures are specified early enough.

Design adaptability

Building adaptability is made possible through the following construction methods:

- Longer spans between columns and other structural elements for flexibility in future building uses
- Fewer load-bearing interior walls for ease in layout revisions
- Less obtrusive beams and columns on the interior side to allow for more flexible alternatives for equipment and furniture
- Increased floor height for flexibility not only in design and use but also in selection of equipment and furnishings
- Separation of wiring and piping of equipment from the structure to allow for ease in maintenance



THE UPGRADING of this building includes the addition of environment-friendly solar panels that reduce utility bills, contribute to the building design, and also help reduce solar penetration. Upgrading buildings help reduce the effects of global warming by cutting down on construction-related activities. KARIN HEBMANN

Upgrading technology

A comprehensive way of upgrading building systems for the main purpose of reducing the environmental impact of construction-related activities is now adopted by many countries to counter the effects of global warming.

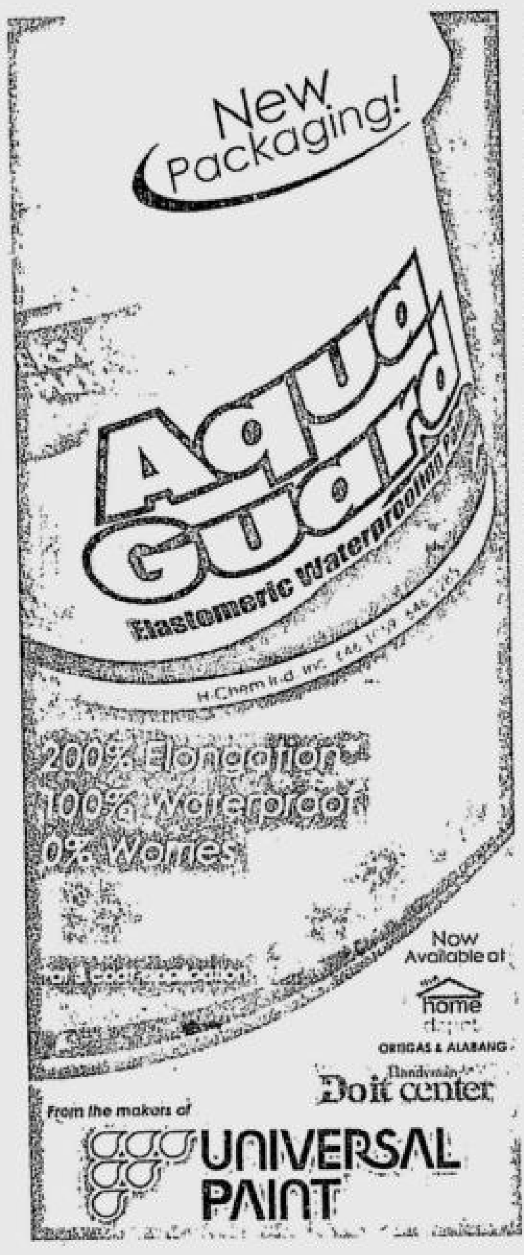
To extend the life span of a building, efforts are made to open to the public some parts of the building, introduction of new technology, green diagnosis of the building through qualitative and quantitative assessment to reduce energy use and make the building more energy-efficient.

Upgrading is usually motivated by the facility's obsolescence and aging. It includes remedial work in exterior walls and waterproofing. Improvement of wiring office automation and IT-related functions, elevator and air-conditioning systems prolong the life span of a building.

To discourage the wasteful demolition of buildings, some sectors have adopted tax incentives, softer bank financing terms for the upgrade of old buildings.

Upgrading buildings has obvious financial and environmental benefits. A city like Metro Manila, with so many old, rundown buildings, could very well benefit by adopting such a system.

For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com.



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Gracious suburban condo living in the city

THE PROSPECT OF SPENDING summer at home is usually unappealing for most condominium dwellers in the city. This would mean a hot and humid atmosphere, aggravated by the fact of being elevated higher from the ground and far from the shade of trees. Amenities such as swimming pools are more than usually crowded, especially with kids.

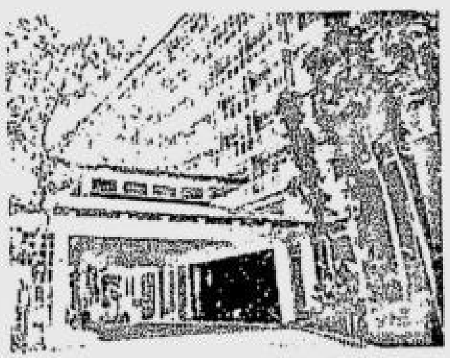
Traveling to the mall or other leisure centers may be out of the question due to the heavy traffic, or due to lethargy from the paralyzing heat. On the other hand, during the rainy season, being cooped up with nowhere to go due to floods is the usual situation.

However, these days, living in a condominium no longer means compromising comfort, mobility and convenience. At One Serendra, the Ayala Land Premier garden residential condominium development in Bonifacio Global City, a revolutionary way of condo living is taking place—a gracious suburban atmosphere right in the middle of a bustling metropolis.

Unparalleled condo living

One Serendra provides unparalleled condo living due to the freedom of movement and luxury of space it offers. Its sprawling land area is not overdeveloped with residential units. At One Serendra, the greenery concept is coupled with very spacious unit sizes, topnotch amenities and low-density atmosphere.

Simply put, residents will enjoy freedom of space and movement within their own home. Unit owners and guests alike will also find themselves sharing space or amenity with fewer people at any given time. This means better appreciation of the gardens and nooks, and maximum enjoyment of facilities.

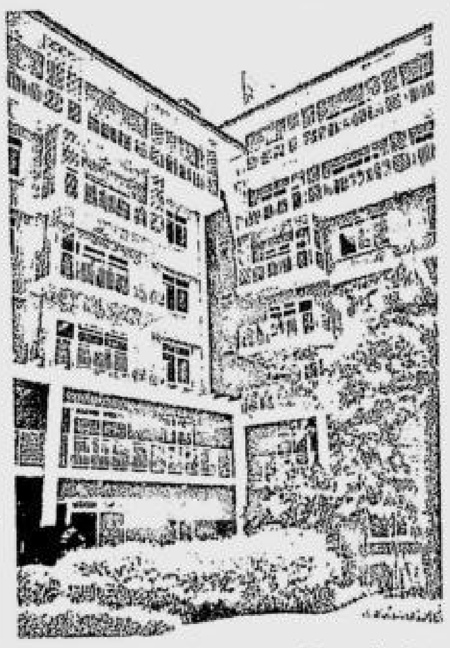


ONE Serendra redefines condo living with gracious suburban sensibilities of spaciousness both inside and outside the units.

Amenities

Even during summer, at the peak of outdoor activity, less crowds will mean a more comfortable, private, serene and relaxing condo-living experience. The cool and inviting amenities of One Serendra include swimming pools for adults and children, to maintain orderliness. Picnics on grassy areas and leisurely strolls along paths and walkways provide alternative activities previously unheard of in a condominium development.

Alternatively, rains and floods in the metropolis won't mean being trapped inside your unit. The sprawling grounds still provide safe and reliable access to indoor facilities such as game rooms, play areas for kids, and ingeniously designed underground basketball and badminton courts.



ITS lowest-density atmosphere simply means residents will find themselves sharing spaces or amenities with fewer people at any given time.

Dining, shopping

The best part of living at One Serendra is unparalleled access to its retail promenade, Shops at Serendra, and the Bonifacio High Street of the Bonifacio Global City. Currently the hottest destination for the best, new restaurants and the biggest anchor shops of the best international brands, Bonifacio High Street is the heart of the new City Center masterplan of Bonifacio Global City.

The Shops at Serendra provides its residents with endless choices for multicultural dining and shopping, literally a few steps away from their units. The genuine multicultural atmosphere of the Shops at Serendra aims to bring the world to the doorstep of One Serendra residents—all the interesting, stimulating flavors from around the globe, and the most unique shopping finds for the home, without the need to actually travel. These quaint shops truly complement the global lifestyle that One Serendra residents are accustomed to.

Endless opportunities

Most importantly, with the pedestrian-friendly masterplan of Bonifacio Global City, there are endless opportunities for family interaction on the sprawling, landscaped grounds of Bonifacio High Street. Children will especially enjoy the interactive art pieces and sculptures, and pet lovers will love the freedom of strolling on the grass with their special companions. In no other condominium development than One Serendra would this leisurely freedom of living be complete, together with a spacious and well-appointed unit to come home to.

With the first phase of One Serendra units to be turned over very soon, there is no more need to wait for this distinctive condo lifestyle to be experienced. The lucky first few residents will be able to savor the convenience and refreshing living experience only One Serendra can bring, with its spacious dwellings, private nooks and gardens, and inimitable proximity to the Bonifacio High Street retail strip.

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Laguna home to CrownAsia's 2 full-blown enclaves

CROWNASIA, THE COUNTRY'S PIONEER developer of master-planned, themed enclaves featuring a fitting combination of style and value-for-money, presents two full-blown communities in one of the country's rapidly advancing area—Valenza in Sta. Rosa and Fortezza in Cabuyao, Laguna.

Laguna is now known as "the land of opportunity and enterprise" with a total of 18 industrial estates which manufacture and produce food, handicrafts, semi-conductors, home appliances and automobiles operating in the area. Its transformation into a locale with a modernized agro-industrial economy is hastened with the support of world-class research and educational institutions, state-of-the-art telecommunication facilities and a highly skilled professional labor force. The rising economy of Laguna also offers a myriad of career opportunities found in the many local and international firms operating in the area.

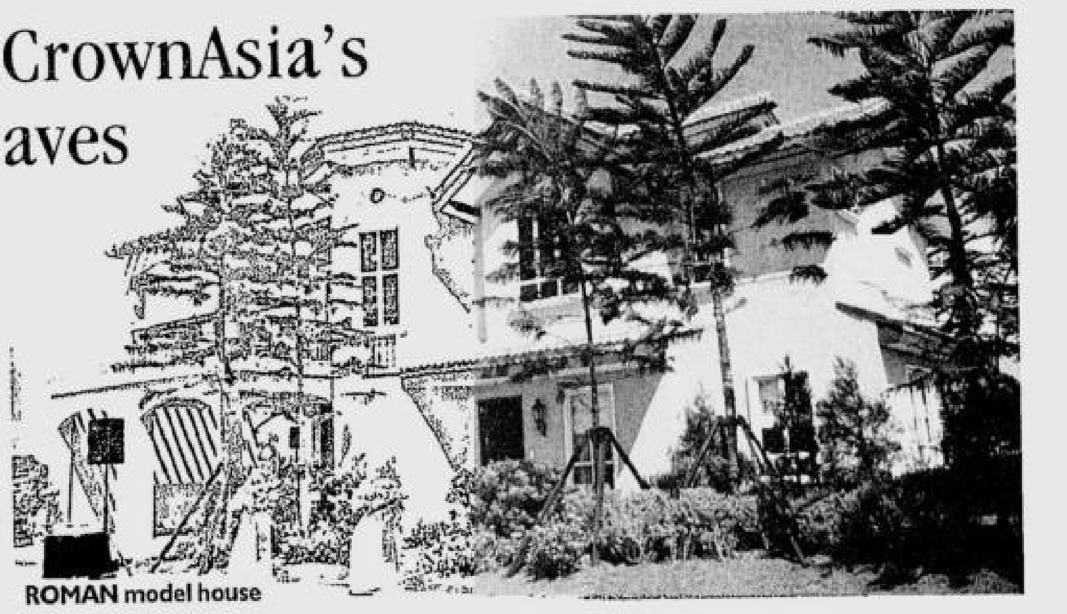
But despite industrialization, the locale has maintained its agricultural lands for its abundant natural resources. The countryside is conserved for its sceneries, supply of fresh air, rich fauna and flora and leisure destinations for the enjoyment of local and foreign tourists.

2 of its prime enclaves

For 11 years, CrownAsia has developed residential communities all over the country to address thousands of Filipino families' dreams for a residence that will complement their lifestyle, an ideal community in which to rear their own families, provide a comfortable yet conveniently accessible sanctuary from the workplace, and a veritable investment for their hard-earned money. Therefore, CrownAsia has carefully selected Laguna to become the home of two of its prime enclaves:

- **Valenza.** The exclusive enclave is located right in the heart of Sta. Rosa, Laguna and draws inspiration from picturesque Italy. The Italian word for valence, Valenza refers to the chemistry of the elements of style and comfort united in symmetry, a characteristic carried on in the fused classical and contemporary architecture of its homes.

Eleven home models are currently available at Valenza: Tiffany, Sapphire, Lalique, Emerald, Murano, Lenox, Llardo, Rosenthal, Roman, Bellini and Palladio beginning with a split-level home with a 86-sq-m floor area on a 110-sq-m lot to as large as a three-story model which has a 285-sq-m floor area on a 210-sq-m lot. Residents are assured of exclusivity and an expanse of greens with only 300 prime home and lots offered at Valenza.



ROMAN model house

Residents can enjoy the view of the fabled Mt. Makiling and the slopes of Tagaytay Ridge as they watch the sun set. From SLEX, take Sta. Rosa Exit and reach Valenza in 10 minutes.

- **Fortezza.** Derived from the Italian word meaning fortress, Fortezza is a residential estate with over 15 hectares of land area located in Cabuyao, Laguna. The market's great reception for this Italian-inspired community has led to the development of its second phase, which offers more than 350 home and lots for sale.

Future residents can choose among the models from the three home series of Fortezza to suit their living requirements and budgets: The SF Series varying from a 50-sq-m floor area on an 88-sq-m lot to a 74-sq-m floor area on an 88-sq-m. lot; The Crown Jewels ranging from a 63 sq.m. floor area on a 110-sq-m lot to a 171-sq-m floor area on a 150-sq-m lot; and The Primed Homes beginning with a 48-sq-m minimum floor area on a 218-sq-m lot to 105-sq-m minimum floor area on a 192-sq-m lot.

Already a full-blown development, Fortezza is one of the first residential communities to rise in Cabuyao. It is located just right off the Cabuyao Exit from SLEX and a quick 15-minute drive from Alabang.

Amenities, facilities

Both Valenza and Fortezza boast first-class amenities and facilities such as a clubhouse, basketball and tennis courts, and children's playpark. Landscaped parks, picnic and promenade areas and wide pathways are found around the enclaves for leisurely walks. Tagaytay is just a few minutes drive, while the beaches of Batangas are also nearby.

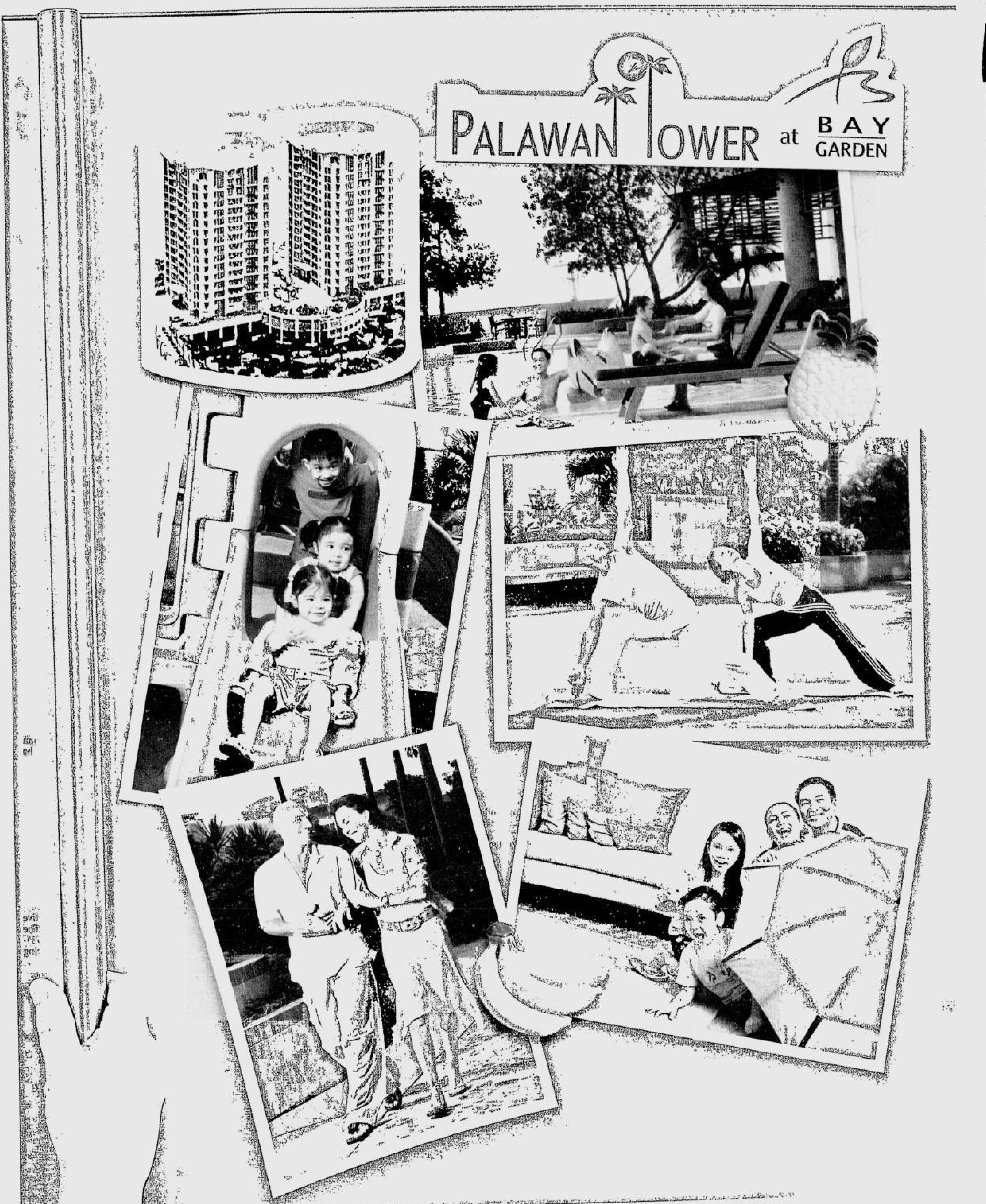
Children can get the best education from top institutions nearby like the Malayan Colleges, Brent, Don Bosco, St. Scholastica, University of Sto. Tomas - Sta. Rosa and De La Salle University.

A number of commercial complexes are also found in Laguna like SM Sta. Rosa, Robinsons Sta. Rosa, Walter Mart, Rustan's and Paseo de Sta. Rosa.

There are neighboring medical facilities as well such as the Calamba Medical Center, Calamba Doctor's Hospital, Southern Luzon Medical Center & Hospital, and Asian Hospital. As the first province found south of Metro Manila, one can quickly get to and from the business and commercial districts in the metropolis.

With its tranquil environs, booming economy and strategic road networks, Laguna becomes a more desirable place to settle down in with the rising of CrownAsia's Valenza and Fortezza.

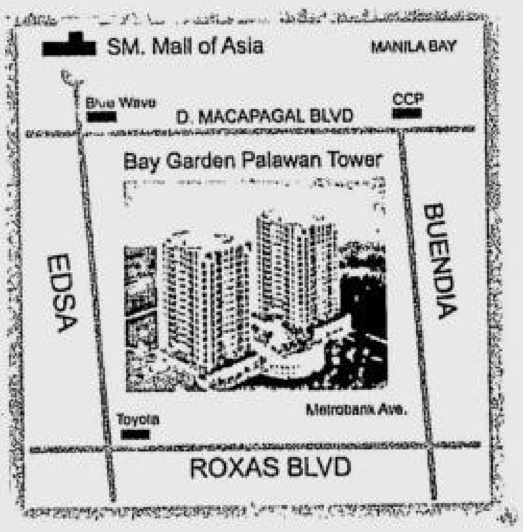
PALAWAN TOWER at BAY GARDEN



Introducing Palawan Tower - Bay Garden's latest attraction.

Ever wondered what it's like to be on vacation everyday? Step into the Bay Garden Community. Over here, life moves in a special pace. Behold the golden rays of Manila Bay's stunning sunsets as your family unwinds in resort-style amenities. Pools and playgrounds provide the backdrop for rest and relaxation. If you're looking for more upbeat fun, nearby hotspots like the Blue Wave Mall and Le Pavillon are waiting. Good times come naturally when you're near the Mall of Asia and the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Palawan Tower is the 5th work of art in the exclusive Bay Garden community, which joins the four other residential masterpieces: Anchor, Boardwalk, Crystal, and Mactan Towers. Visit us now and enjoy the breeze while you marvel at the wide open space that sprawls out to welcome you. Come home to a grand vacation. Come home to Bay Garden.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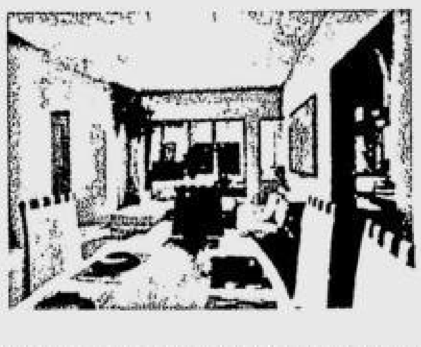
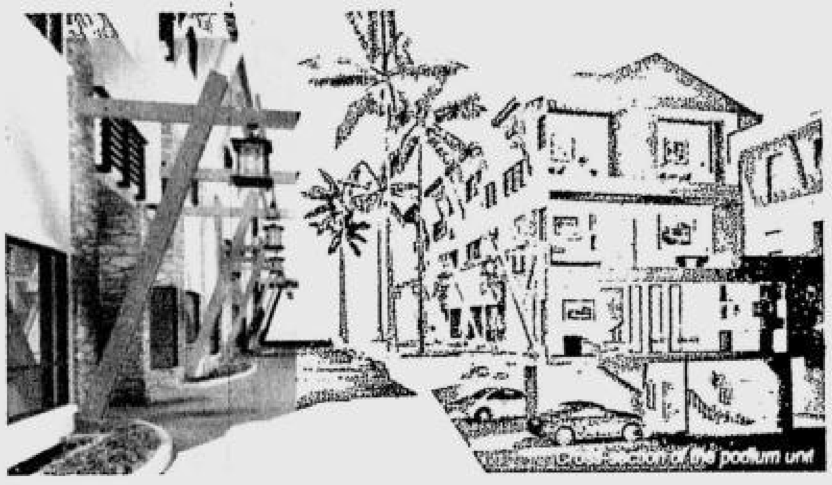


Unique to Luntala Valle Verde is the Podium Model, the first of its kind in townhouse development in the Philippines. The Podium model is designed to heighten the residents' quality of life, as well as promote family bonding and community activities, with all the space to enjoy right outside their front doors.

Families can walk, play, relax and just enjoy each other's company in a cleaner environment, safe from any cars because the vehicles and their parking garage have a separate road network below the units", said Rex C. Drilon II, OCLP's Chief Operating Officer.

"There is even easy access to the community center and its pool", he added.


Cross-section of the podium unit

Ortigas & Company partners with China Bank

A Memorandum of Agreement was formally signed last May 28, 2007 between Ortigas & Company, Limited Partnership (OCLP) and China Banking Corporation (China Bank) for a special loan package for Luntala Valle Verde buyers.

"Now Luntala buyers don't have to wait for the project completion before they can take out a loan to purchase their desired unit. All they need to do is complete the 20% down payment, and China Bank can release the loan for as much as 80% of the unit's total contract price in less than a week. This drastically cuts the waiting time for potential buyers who would like to secure their unit of choice right away", said Cathy Casares-Ko, OCLP's Real Estate Division Head.

"This special financing arrangement is made possible to the Luntala Valle Verde project because of our tie-up with China Bank. Bank financing is not normally available for pre-development projects since other banks need at least 90% completion of the units prior to loan take out", she added.

China Bank offers a 7.5% home loan rate at a time when the average home loan rate is 9.75%. The dive in the home loan rate under the "Take Home China Bank Home Plus" program was designed to make it easy for consumers to buy, build or renovate a home, and even easier to pay their loans with a repayment term of up to 20 years.

"We cut our home loan rate so our clients can have lower monthly payments", said China Bank SVP, Reynaldo L. Lao, "lower rates mean more savings for our clients."

" We at China Bank are pleased to be OCLP's partner in its premier development, Luntala Valle Verde, with one of the lowest home loan rates in the industry, clients will find it easier now to buy a home at Luntala," he added.

MOA signing for special tie-up between OCLP & China Bank last May 28, 2007. Shown shaking hands after the contract signing are China Bank's EVP/COO Ricardo R. Chua and OCLP's COO Rex C. Drilon II. Looking on are (from left) China Bank's SAM Adelberto Placino; VP Lilibeth R. Carino; SVP Reynaldo L. Lao; and OCLP's Deputy COO Joselito F. Santos; Real Estate Division Head Cathy Casares-Ko and CFO Emmanuel A. Rapadas

70% sold out since its official launching in the first quarter, 2007

Ground breaking for the community center was held last March 25, 2007.

From left: Trina Chan - OCLP Sales & Marketing Manager; Cathy Casares-Ko - OCLP Real Estate Division Head; Mrs. Janet Tang; Mrs. Semira Karami; Mr. Michael Tang; Mr. Afshin Karami and son: Mr. Leonardo Lapuz; Mr. & Mrs. Alfredo Catapang, Joey Santos - OCLP Deputy Chief Operating Officer and Mrs. Rebecca Lapuz

Key participants in the morning's event were the first buyers at Luntala Valle Verde. More than 70% of the units were sold out after having been formally launched in February. In mid-March, the Phase 2 was opened for sale to provide more choices for the new buyers.

Construction of the units began full blast in January to meet the 2008 turnover schedule where Phase 1 units will be turned over in the first quarter and Phase 2 units by year end.

Flexible payment choices for buyers

Other than the generous discounts and standard terms and offers for cash buyers, OCLP has prepared a menu of the most flexible payment schemes for term sales and bank financed accounts.

"There are options available that suit each buyer's projected cash flow", according to Joselito F. Santos, Deputy Chief Operating Officer.

Inquiries can be made at the Luntala Sales & Marketing office at 638-8331 or 631-1231 locals 160 and 163.

Finished to your taste

The Luntala Marketing Showroom , is located in Frontera Verde, Ortigas Avenue corner E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue (C5), Pasig City. It will soon be ready for buyers to view and choose the interior color finishes that suit their personal style.

The website is now on line at www.luntala.com.ph

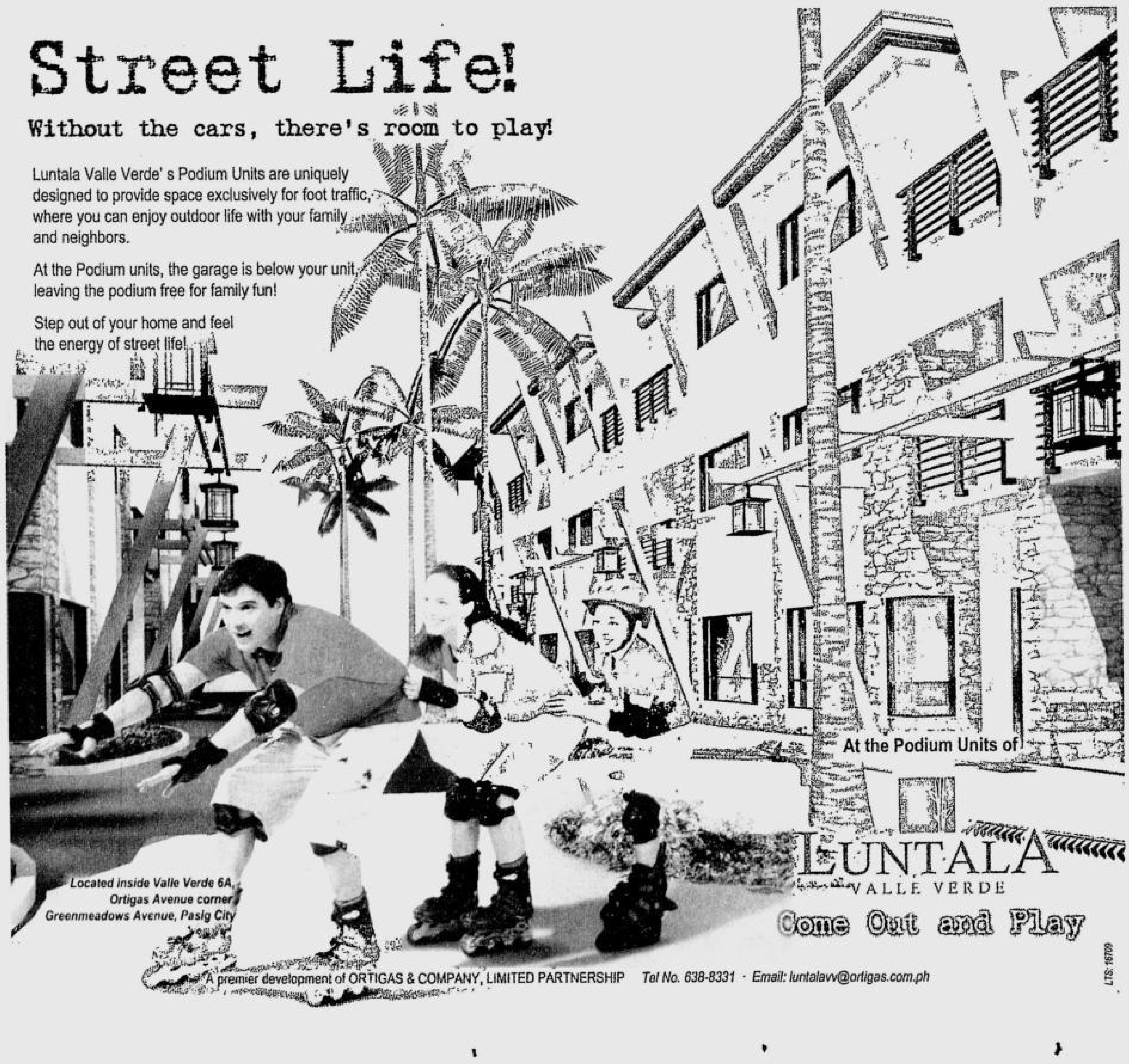
Street Life!

Without the cars, there's room to play!

Luntala Valle Verde' s Podium Units are uniquely designed to provide space exclusively for foot traffic, where you can enjoy outdoor life with your family and neighbors.

At the Podium units, the garage is below your unit, leaving the podium free for family fun!

Step out of your home and feel the energy of street life!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Preparing for the wrath of typhoons

DESIGN DIMENSIONS

Isabel Berenguer Asuncion

MIXED-UP IS THE BEST WAY TO describe the weather pattern we've been experiencing. Bursts of sunlight are followed by heavy rainfall, then more sunlight again. The confusion seems to mirror our resignation to, anticipation of, and even excitement over the inevitable high winds and heavy rain that arrive with the typhoon season.

I had mistakenly believed that all Asian countries experienced typhoons. Not so. Across Asia, climate varies according to the exact location of the region in relation to the equator. In Kuala Lumpur, for example, it rains practically every day. My travels to this little-visited Asian city had me anticipating rainfall in the afternoons that would clear after a 15-minute downpour. Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and parts of China too, get their rainfall without much of the damaging monsoon or typhoon winds.

Part of our lives

Because the Philippines is located in the Pacific belt, typhoons are part of the seasons of our lives. We share the same fate with Hong Kong, Japan and Vietnam.

In my childhood, news of an oncoming typhoon was good news! It meant hours of munching cheez curls in bed and no school for a day or two. But now that I have a household to manage and a business to run, news of high winds brings dread and worry about floods, leaking roofs and power outages. We hope that our gutters aren't filled with leaves, storm drains are cleaned of debris and window seals are in place.

And while we sit at home waiting for a storm to pass, we think about our office and wonder if the wind has broken a window pane open, or if a building drain has overflowed. Once, water started pouring from our office ceilings! Amusingly—and to our relief—it wasn't caused by a bad roof drain system, but by an aquarium on the floor right above us that had burst.

Protection

Because typhoons are essentially part of the Filipino landscape, we've learned to protect ourselves from them. Architects and designers use wind factors as prime considerations for the selection of roofing materials and windows. New products face their baptism of fire when subjected to high winds.

Fortunately, many local manufacturers and distributors are typhoon-conscious. Aluminum windows and doors, for example, are fabricated with frames that have "weep holes," little canals to allow water that has seeped in, to flow out again, rather than to flow into the interior. Windows are also fitted out with rubber or silicon weather seals that close-off small gaps.

Nonstandard approaches

There are also many nonstandard approaches to accommodate these temperamental weather disturbances. Gutters can be made deeper and wider to adequately catch rain draining from the roof; vertical drains can be enlarged to hasten the down flow of rainwater; window sill details or *basyada* as we call them, are profiled to keep wind pressure from forcing water in.

In modern homes, ledges above openings can replace the traditional continuous overhangs as protection from rain. Large windows can have fixed panels below or above operable panels to minimize the inflow of rain and water while maximizing views and natural light.

Being part of our annual climate cycle, typhoons do not come by surprise and have become a part of our design consciousness. So while we wait for the first typhoon of this season to hit, we would like to think that our shelters are more than prepared for its wrath.

CONSTRUCTSCOPE

Multipurpose Hall blessing

SAN ANTONIO SOUTH, THE ACTIVE GROUP'S fast-selling subdivision project in Biñan, Laguna, recently opened its Phase 2 development, and marked this project milestone with the blessing of the subdivision's Multipurpose Hall attended by the project's exclusive sales brokers and buyers, followed by a tree-planting activity.

Present during the blessing and tree-planting at the project's Phase 2 open area were Active Land Estates Sales Inc. sales director Bien Abiada, Uni-Paragon president Rommel Eugenio, Active Group VP for operations Manny Go as well as Uni-Paragon chief executive officer Dominador Eugenio and chief operating officer Rey Eugenio.

4th Green Forum

THE GREEN ARCHITECTURE MOVEMENT (GAM) of the United Architects of the Philippines is holding its 4th Green Forum titled "Sustainable Design of Philippine Tourism" from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m, today at the 4th floor of the Museum of the Filipino People, Tambunting Villonco Hall, Finance Road Manila.

Super
Firestarter

Photography: ALLAN TUAZON
Graphics: BURNWATER STUDIOS
Styling: RCXY BAUTISTA
Make-Up: ROBBIE PINERA
Cover Models: VINI AND BETTINA in Levi's Copper

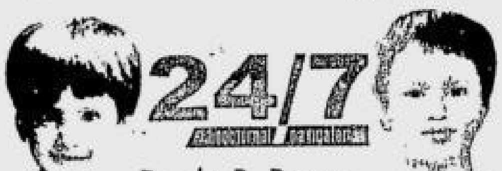
The art and blood of Kooky and Richard Tuason page C2

Get disco-dancing with Calvin Harris page D1

Which phone do you want to date? page E4

Pepe Diokno brings angsty back page D2

The Sound of Musique



Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

THE FRENCH SPRING SEASon draws to a close next weekend with Fête de la Musique, the international music festival that is celebrated simultaneously in 120 countries around the world. Since it was first held in the festive streets of Paris in 1982, the annual sonic soiree has seduced both artists and listeners, who come together each June to proclaim the gift of music.

On Saturday, June 23, Fête plays host to thousands of Filipino music fans at Malate, where four stages will be set-up to accommodate 130 bands from various musical genres: Universal Stage (Plaza Rajah Sulayman, Roxas Blvd.), Rock & Alternative Stage (Remedios Circle), Hip-hop & RnB Stage (Adriatico St. cor. Nakpil St.), and World Music & Electronica Stage (Ma. Orosa St. cor. Nakpil St.).

Scheduled to perform are Radioactive Sago Project, Up Dharma Down, Orange & Lemons, Drip, Sound, Chillitees, Paramita, Juan Pablo Dream, Chicosci, Kapatid, Bagetsafonik, Salamin, and Stonefree, among many other talented local acts. Festivities will begin as early as 2 p.m. For the complete schedule, call Alliance Française de Manille at 895-7585 or Pulp at 687-1709.

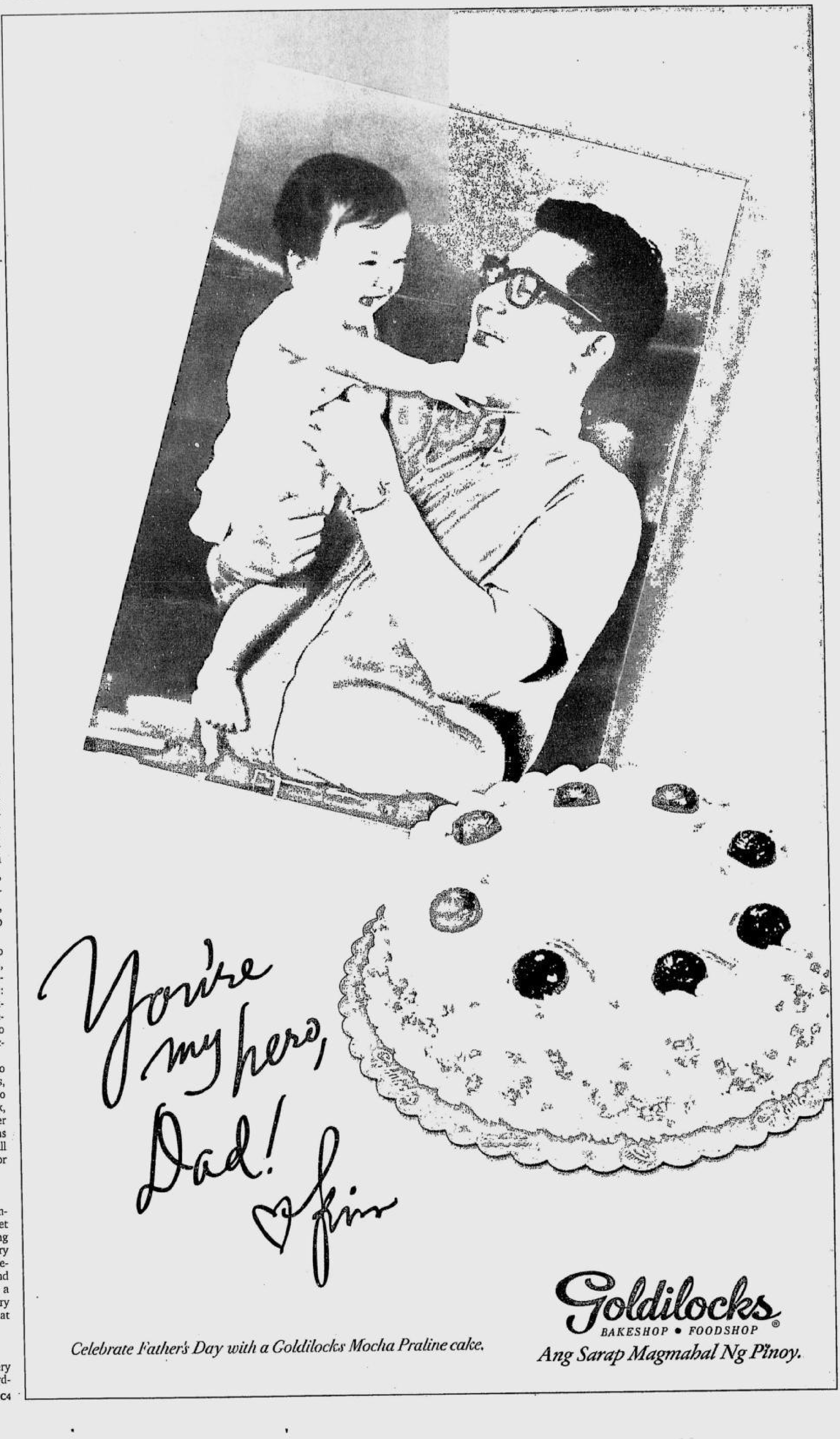
Grand Buffet

Spiral (Sofitel Philippine Plaza, CCP Complex, Pasay City) whips up a monster buffet for Father's Day, June 17. Apart from offering a veritable feast of oysters and seafood, every dad in attendance will be treated to giveaways from Giorgio Armani, Polo, and Cacharel. One lucky father also stands a chance to win a BMW Weekend Discovery Drive, which comes with an overnight stay at the hotel.

Affordable Art

Until 4 p.m. today, art aficionados of every stripe are invited to the country's first afford-

THE SOUND/ C4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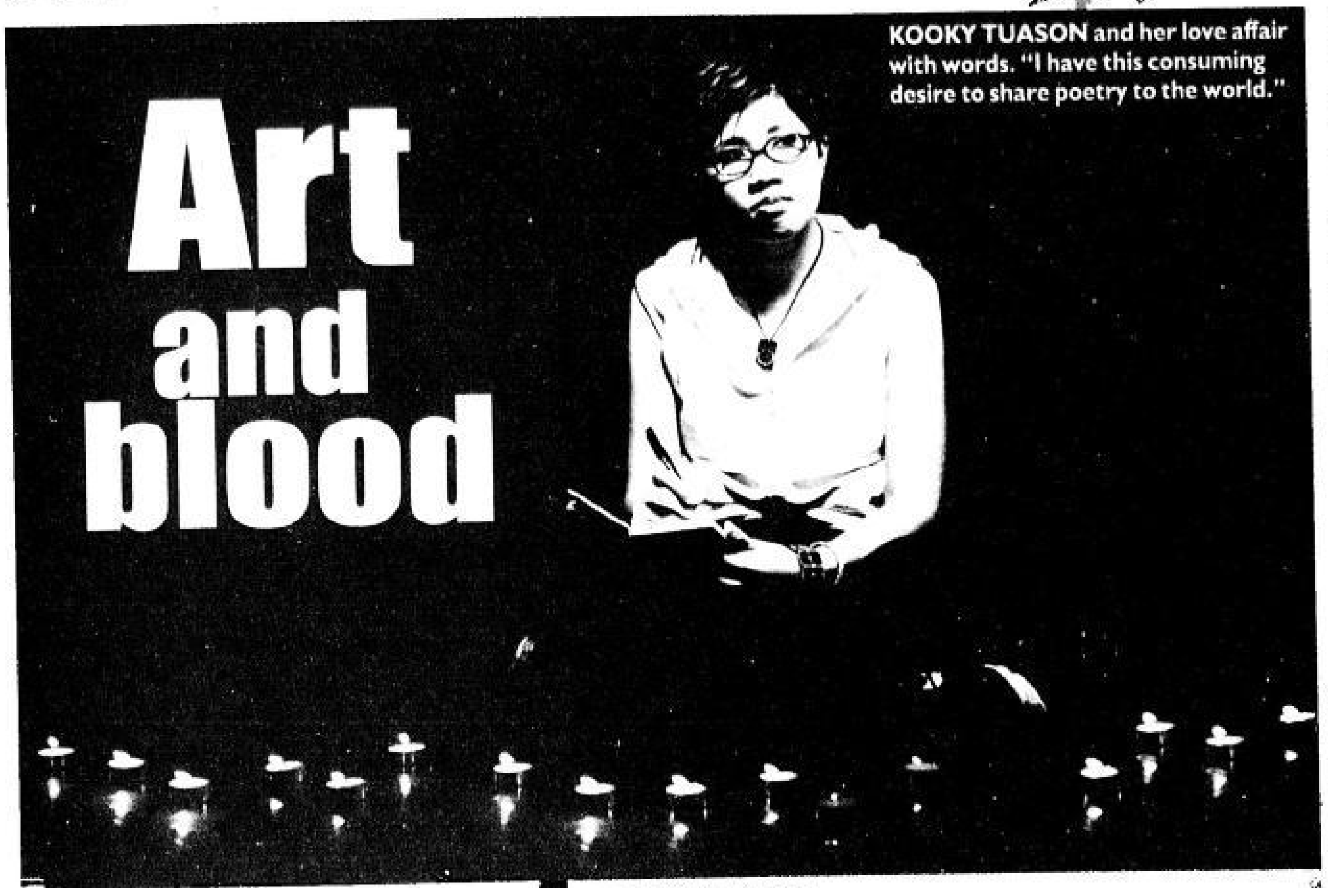
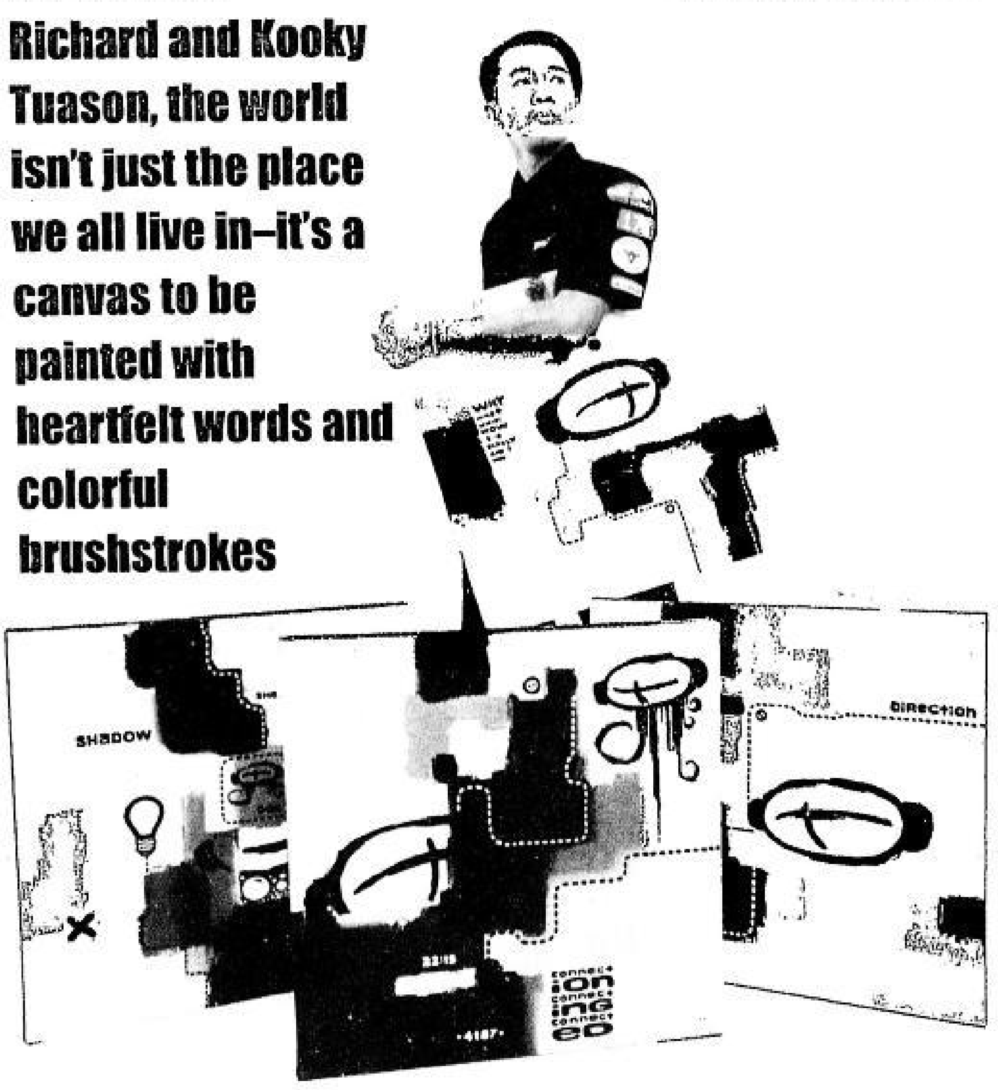


KOOKY TUASON and her love affair with words. "I have this consuming desire to share poetry to the world."

For siblings Richard and Kooky Tuason, the world isn't just the place we all live in–it's a canvas to be painted with heartfelt words and colorful brushstrokes



"MY ART is contagious," says painter Richard Tuason

By Pam Pastor

THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO live the regular life, while dreaming about art. The lawyer who misses her paintbrush and canvas. The teacher who longs to write a world-changing novel. The engineer who wishes he can make music instead.

Then there are people who try to juggle both. The doctor who paints on the weekends. The accountant who plays the sax. The corporate slave who rocks the stage with his band at night.

And then there are people like siblings Kooky and Richard Tuason, the brave souls, the ones who turn their backs on the norm and pursue lives of uncertainty and excitement, the ones who cannot see themselves doing anything but devoting their entire lives to their art.

Thirty-one-year-old Kooky Tuason is a spoken word artist. But to call her just that would be unfair to the swelling wave she has created in the growing spoken word scene in the Philippines. Kooky has produced three spoken word albums so far—Romancing Venus Volumes 1 and 2 (which features the voices of women like KC Concepcion, Angel Aquino, Barbie Almalbis, Kate Torralba, Iza Calzado and Session Road's Hannah Romawac and others) and Bigkas Pilipinas. And to make sure people get their dose of poetry regularly, she hosts a poetry radio show on Jam 88.3 on Saturdays, from 9 to 10 p.m. She has asked different people to read their poetry on air—from Karen Kunawicz and Angelo Suarez to a call center agent to Jojo A. Yeah, everyone's a poet. Kooky marvels at how her creativity can touch other people. She said she discovers her art over and over again, "the moment someone actually cries or smiles when they read my writing."

Thirty-year-old Richard Tuason is a painter. A veteran of art contests, Richard developed his own style of turning blank canvases into art. He uses a palette knife to paint—and yes, to slash through his paintings. After being exposed to a lot of art books as a kid, Richard found his big passion in art. He says, "Art is my destiny."

Some of his paintings are currently on display at Gallery Big in Reposo Makati. He is also preparing for an exhibit at F*art in August. Richard is a musician as well, playing the drums for bands Dalisay, a metal band and Clockwork, a jazz band trio. He also plays the guitars and keyboards.

Although they have their individual artistic endeavors, they also find ways to be creative together. Richard and Kooky produce what Kooky calls "sound art" with their band Mono Temple.

Super! talked to Kooky and Richard about their passions, their creative life and their struggles as artists.

CREATIVITY RUNS in their blood. Siblings Kooky and Richard Tuason have art in their hearts

Which form of art is the closest to your heart and why?

Kooky: Poetry, music. It draws me intimately to my soul.

Richard: Abstract. It brings you to another place, where there is nothing but colors, textures, emptiness, happiness ... a world where there's no form. It's like creating what is not yet existing.

What do you think made you and your sibling really passionate about art?

Richard: I was always asked to draw on the blackboard when I was a kid. I never wanted to be stuck in an eight-to-five job. I also want to prove that there is hope for the arts here in the Philippines.

Kooky: There is so much poetry around us—the wind, the sea, the rain speaks of it. And it hit me that I'm a messenger, that I have a responsibility to speak of it, share it, etc.

What day jobs have you had?

Kooky: Writer for a network, writer for an ad agency, event planner, bar manager, talent manager, publicist.

Richard: I used to be a draftsman, a sign painter and a graphic artist.

How did you make the brave decision to live your life for art?

Kooky: I go by what I feel. I guess that's how it happened. I have this consuming desire to share poetry to the world.

Richard: We starve sometimes, we don't have a lot of clothes to wear. But there's no turning back.

Do you think your art is making a difference? How?

Kooky: Yes, according to people I know and strangers who have read, heard my work and those who have seen me perform. It inspires others to share their thoughts out loud, dream big and make it happen.

Richard: I think so. Creating your own art makes a lot of difference already. I want to convey something that matters. That it's all about relationships. Everything fades—talent, fame, and even fortune. But your family and friends will always love you, not because you're an artist but because you learned how to share your life. Art is life and I live because art made me.

Tell us about your life as an artist.

Kooky: Every day's a different day. No routines.

Richard: It is a hard life. Having no materials to be used when you're already inspired. Buying Lucky Me *pancit canton* just to quell your appetite after being hungry for a long time. When I draw, sometimes I treat myself to a drink at Starbucks. I hang out sometimes with the singles of Victory Christian Fellowship. That's where I get my inspiration. They are always full of inspiration. I sell my works to friends. Marketing your own art is not a crime. It's not about making money. People always make *tawad. Ang mahal naman daw.* But would I stop? No way! Somebody still believes in me and in my works. And it is a good life too!

Tell us about your creative process.

Kooky: Sometimes I wake up late at night, sometimes I don't sleep at all especially when my thoughts are on the rise, wanting to be written on paper.

Richard: My creation starts with how I feel. Stretching my own canvas, thinking about which colors I will use, grabbing my palette knife and slashing it roughly. I'm still in the process of experimenting.

Do you feel like you are experiencing the struggle of an artist?

Kooky: Sometimes.

Richard: Yes, absolutely! I hate poverty, but I love to struggle. It makes you a man.

What's one thing people should know about you?

Kooky: The things that my words couldn't express, my actions do.

Richard: I care ... I'm interested ... and I'm available ... if not always.

Describe your art in one word.

Kooky: Word!!!

Richard: My art is contagious.

What inspires you?

Kooky: Life, love, challenges.

Richard: Some of history's greatest artists. How they made it, and even some who didn't. Drama films. And God. Hardcore!!!

How far would you go for your art?

Kooky: I've already experienced eating once a day while I was in the process of album production. I don't think it could get any worse than that.

Richard: Having gray hair is not a parameter, I guess. Shows, shows, shows anywhere. Sharing is fun.

What are you currently busy with?

Kooky: Gigs with Mono Temple, my show at Jam, promoting my albums, writing new material for Romancing Venus Volume 3, workshops for Women's Crisis Center, all-girls schools and correctional facilities.

Richard: Dealing with people, spoken word performances, gigs and painting.

Visit Kooky at www.venusinorbit.com.

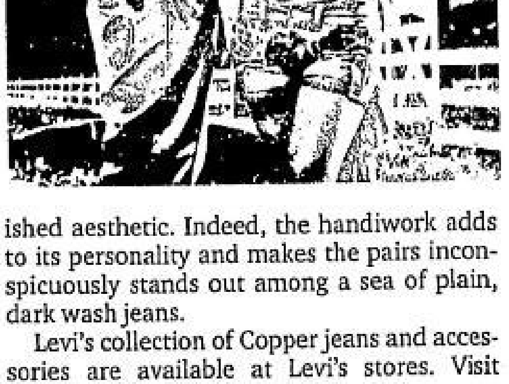
We've hit copper

A LOT OF FASHION LABELS have been looking back at history lately.

Levi's revisits its rugged roots, by remembering the copper-riveted work pants first worn by miners during the California Gold Rush. These pants were patented by Levi Strauss and tailor Jacob Davis in 1873.

Levi's design team today pays tribute to these pants by taking their "worn-out" appeal and translating them for the modern world, apt to fit today's hurried lifestyle.

And while it takes inspiration from the past, the pants scream of now. It goes perfectly with the shiny and sleek trend that's been ruling the fashion scene. The silhouette enhances one's shape as its pockets and seams are crafted of stylish curves. And of course, though its distinguishing factor is that it's handcrafted, Levi's still applies its top-notch jean-making technology to make sure that the line survives the fast pace of cosmopolitan cities.



This line is meant for those who have an appreciation for history, superb workmanship and the unique beauty of the rough, unfinished aesthetic. Indeed, the handiwork adds to its personality and makes the pairs inconspicuously stands out among a sea of plain, dark wash jeans.

Levi's collection of Copper jeans and accessories are available at Levi's stores. Visit www.levi.com.ph for more information.

Work hard, party harder

THE BEACHES OF BORACAY ONCE again became the ultimate party venue for today's hip crowd as West held the West Urban Discovery event at Club Paraw in Station 1 recently.

The West Urban Discovery was launched with this assertive, passionate generation in mind made up of young people with a more diverse lifestyle and career-driven goals. They are constantly in search of what they want in life, and are not hesitant to explore new things to help them find their way. Young adults today also find it important to develop relationships—whether families, friends or colleagues—where they could learn more from and help them be in touch with their humanity.

Through West Urban Discovery, young people will have a platform where they can have a chance to express themselves, discover the world of opportunities, and enjoy life with all its options.

West lined up a series of events to celebrate this zest for life. West Urban Discovery is slated to visit key locations across the country with activities that will focus on encouraging the young adults to discover their potentials that will help them reach their dreams.

To ensure that the party reaches fever pitch in Boracay, West teamed up with UNO magazine to deliver the ultimate summer party in the country's summer party capital.

West Urban Discovery matched the partyphiles' adrenaline levels with one scorching night of great music, good food, overflowing booze, and of course, hot girls. Boracay sizzled even more with the UNO Girls, composed of some of the country's gorgeous babes who are all hot names in the entertainment and fashion industries. Giving beach bums truly one hot summer night were Kat Alano, Bubbles Paraiso, Phoemela Barranda, Valerie delos Santos, Jasmin Gabriel, April Tanhueco, Eli Nacuspag, and Juliana Lima Santos.

Making the night even hotter for spectators was the fashion show, where celebrities and models took over the catwalk in skimpy beachwear. The girls elicited a lot of *ohhs* and *ahhs* from the audience as they paraded in swimsuits provided by Waicoco, SPF, and Nothing but Water.

After the hot fashion show, party was next on the agenda with Nyko Maca Band taking the centerstage with their infectious electro-latin-hip hop numbers.

JASMIN Gabriel
ELI Nacuspag
BUBBLES Paraiso
VAL Delos Santos
PHOEM Barranda

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HOW TO GET THERE. From EDSA northbound, turn right to Quezon Ave. Go straight ahead past Iglesia ni Cristo Central Temple, McDonald's, and Ever Gotesco Mall. As you see St. Peter's Parish on the right side of the road, get ready to turn right to Batasan Road, marked by the new Sandiganbayan Bldg. Follow the Batasan Road and turn right to Batasan Road Extension. Then turn left upon seeing Petron Gas Station. Enter the Filinvest II Gate 1. Follow the directional signs to Serra Monte Villas.

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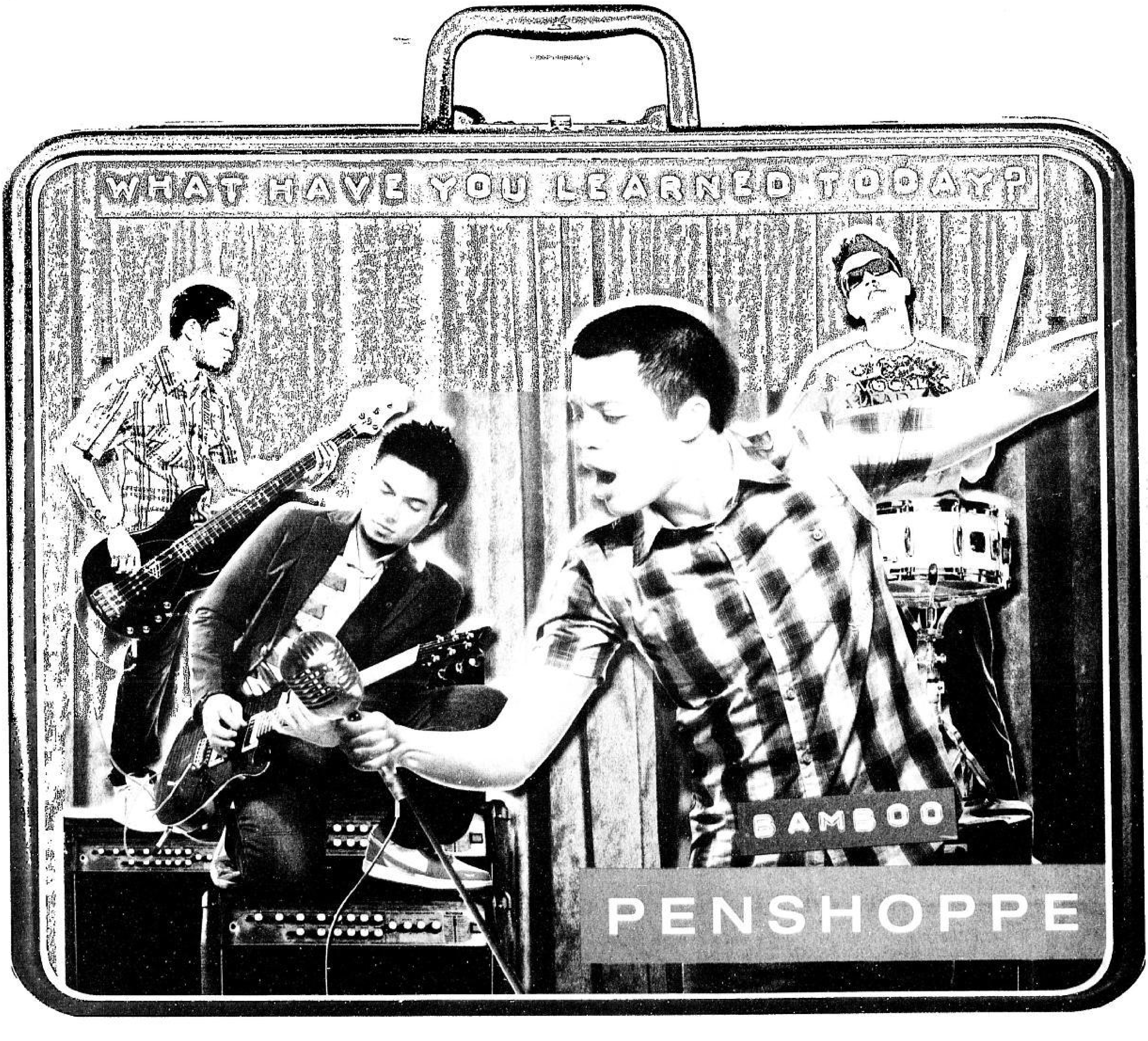

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED TODAY?
BAMBOO
PENSHOPPE

The Sound of Musique

From page C1

able art fair, Art in the Park, in Salcedo Park (Tordesillas and Leviste streets, Salcedo Village, Makati). Tucked away in a sea of booths and stalls are prints, paintings, drawings, sculptures, and photographs, all priced below P20,000. Over 20 galleries, independent spaces, and art schools will be exhibiting their works.

More Super! 24/7 events:

June 16, Saturday

Porterhouse feat. DJ Steve Porter: Live! at Warehouse 135; Kerplunk Anniversary feat. Shoulder State, Stonefree, Ambassadors, Hilera, Chicosci, & Hale at Mag:net Café (Bonifacio High Street); DJs Karl Ty & Marie Garcia at Fiamma; House of Soul w/ DJs Benjo Marquez & Jason Soong at Nuvo; Soundsgood DJs at Embassy Cuisine; Cynthia Alexander at Conspiracy Café; Rouge at M Café; Sexy Saturday at Absinth; DJs Jon Herrera & Tolo Bote at Temple; Guarana at Havana Greenbelt; House Music at Mezze; DJs Scratchmark & Bliss at Prince of Jaipur; Gogo Weekend at Bed; K 24/7 at Tropezz; Art in the Park: Affordable Art Fair at Salcedo Park, Salcedo Village, Makati (7 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

June 17, Sunday

Special Father's Day Grand Buffet at Sofitel Philippine Plaza's Spiral; Foto Baryo's "Natural Lang" photography exhibit at Blank Space Gallery, 0431 Quirino Ave., Parañaque; French Film Festival at Shangri-La Plaza Mall; WWF's Climate Change Art Exhibit at Greenbelt 3 ; Objectif Paris at Ayala Museum; Jewelry & Photography Exhibit at Le Soufflé, Fort; Nuevo Ritmo at Café Havana Greenbelt

June 18, Monday

Time Machine: Art Exhibit & Collective at Conspiracy; Musical Fascist Night: Myrene Academia at Mag:net Café (Bonifacio High Street); Happy Mondays at Embassy Cuisine; Poetry Nights at Mag:net Café Katipunan; Arriba at Café Havana Greenbelt; I Don't Like Mondays! w/ DJ RO at Gweilos Makati; Chemical Underground at Absinth; Kiko & Kelly at Tropezz

June 19, Tuesday

Cuisine Royale w/ DJ Manolet Dario at Embassy Cuisine; SPIT at Mag:net Café (Bonifacio High Street); Electronica Night at Fiamma; '80s & '90s Night at Temple; Nyko Maca + Playground at M Café; Jazz Night at Mezze; DJ Patch at Absinth; Guarana at Havana Greenbelt; Open Mic Night at Club O; Piano Nights at Azzurro Linden Suites; Souled Out Band at Merk's; Leslie at Tropezz

June 20, Wednesday

Wake Up Your Seatmate & Blast Ople at Mag:net Café (Bonifacio High Street); Sound & Chillitees at Mag:net Katipunan; House of Soul w/ DJs Benjo Marquez & Jason Soong at Fez; DJs Karl Ty & Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine; Lush: Smooth Rn'B at Fiamma; DJ Marie Garcia at Rock Candy; Mishmash at Absinth; '90s Night at Coquina; Live Rock Bands at Temple; DJs Kimozave & Chrismyx at Prince of Jaipur; Arriba at Café Havana Greenbelt ; Shane & Brown Sugar at Tropezz

June 21, Thursday

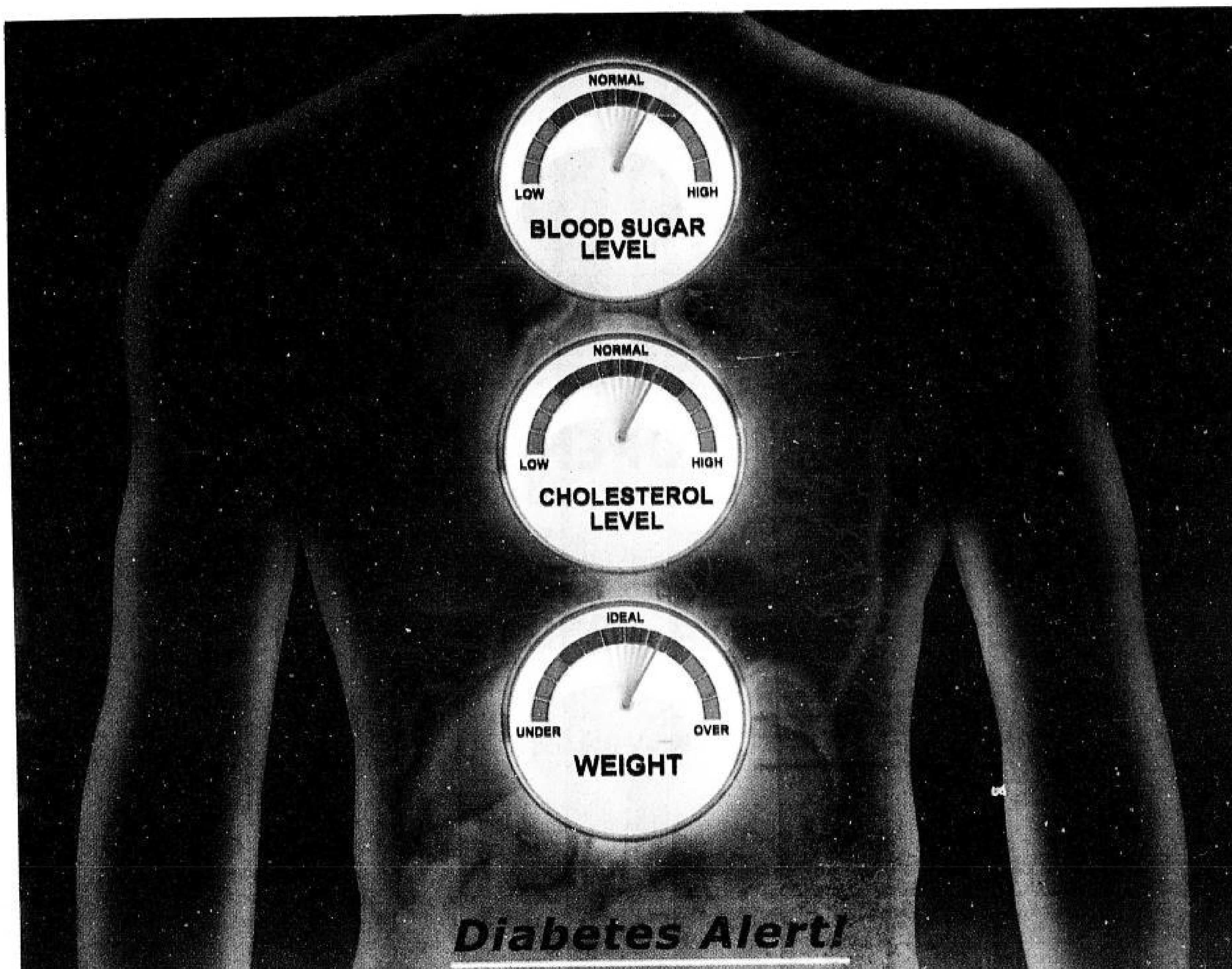
DJ Missill of France at Embassy Club; Eileen Sison, Guarana & Working Stiff at Mag:net Café (Bonifacio High Street); Fabric: Fashion Thursdays feat. Aranaz bags at Piedra; Gemini Zodiac Party at Bed; Cynthia Alexander at Tiendesitas; Joseph Badon at Tropezz; Tribo Manila at Mezze; Fluxxe at Absinth; Soundsgood DJs at Nuvo; Reggae Mistress at Café Havana Greenbelt; Backtrack Thursdays at Club O; Radio Coquina at Coquina; World's Fastest Open Bar at Bed; Myxtreme at Tropezz

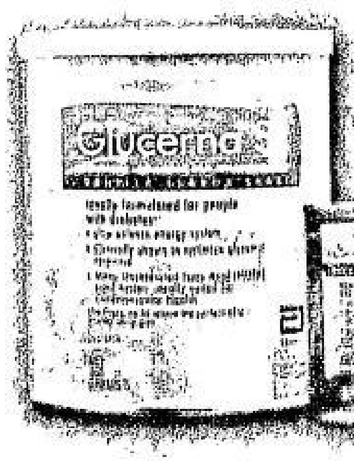
June 22, Friday

House of Soul feat. DJ Jason Soong at Alchemy; Nine Vines Launch Party & Elektro Disko feat. DJ Adrian Cuenca & Miss BadKiss at M Café; Chill by the Bay at SM Mall of Asia; DJ Tony Pavia at Mezze; DJ Karl Ty at Nuvo; DJ Boyet Almazan at Jill's; House Sessions at Fiamma; DJ David Ardiente at Coquina; DJ Marie Garcia at Embassy Cuisine; Jive Fridays at Temple; DJ Scratchmark at Prince of Jaipur; Dragon! Fridays at Bed; 3rd Virgin Labfest at CCP; Joey Ayala at Conspiracy; Infinity at Tropezz; Collie Herb at Mag:net Café (Bonifacio High Street)

PULP
Fête de la Musique
2007

Schedules may change without prior notice. For a complete listing of events, text 24/7 GIGS through your mobile phone and send to 2851 (Globe) and 2951 (Smart). Submit your schedules before Tuesday to events@mag24-7.com & mag24_7@yahoo.com. Vote now for the 24/7 Nocturnal Awards 2007! Log on to www.mag24-7.com/awards for details.





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Strike the Right Balance to Help Manage Diabetes

As with most lifestyle diseases, diabetes is caused by the lack of moderation.

Food is turned into blood sugar, the body's primary source of energy. It enters the cells with the help of insulin, a hormone produced by the pancreas. Diabetes occurs when the body either doesn't produce enough insulin (Type 1 diabetes), or can't use it efficiently (Type 2 diabetes).

About 90% of people who have the disease develop Type 2 or adult-onset diabetes because of too much food and drink, lack of physical activity and stress.

This can lead to complications like blindness, kidney damage, lower limb amputations and cardiovascular disease.

Three Main Health Risks

Blood Sugar. Maintaining blood sugar at a normal and healthy level is the first step in preventing the onset of diabetes. For most people, the target blood sugar levels are:

- Before Meals – 90 to 100 mg/dl
- 1 to 2 Hours After Start of Meal – less than 140 mg/dl

Proper diet is the cornerstone of diabetes management. This means making sensible and healthy food choices as recommended by the American Diabetes Association:

- At least 5 servings of fruits and vegetables everyday
- Plenty of grains, starches, cereals and potatoes
- Small servings of meat, fish and poultry
- Spare use of fats like oil and butter
- Occasional sweet treats (split with a friend or family member)

Body Weight. A high percentage of people with Type 2 diabetes are overweight.

But maintaining the appropriate weight can be quite a challenge with the prevalence of high-fat, high-calorie diets from fast food restaurants and the lack of physical activity.

These are the health suggestions of the American Center for Disease Control and Prevention:

- Walk, bike, jog, skate, etc. to your destination
- Park your car farther away from where you're going
- Get on or off the bus several blocks away
- Take the stairs instead of the elevator or escalator
- Take fitness breaks – doing desk exercises – instead of cigarette or coffee breaks
- Keep a pair of comfortable walking or running shoes handy to be ready for activity
- Make a weekend morning walk with a group a habit

Cholesterol. Saturated animal fats from red meat and dairy products, as well as trans-fats or hydrogenated oils from commercially-prepared baked goods–the so-called bad cholesterol–can clog up the arteries.

A healthy diet should include Mono-Unsaturated Fatty Acids (MUFA) and Poly-Unsaturated Fatty Acids (PUFA). Omega 6 is a PUFA found in salmon, sardines, herring and mackerel. Omega 3 is another PUFA present in soybean, wheat germ, rice bran and canola oil.

Nuts, olive oil and other vegetable oils are also categorized as good fats.

To keep blood sugar, body weight and cholesterol at a healthy level, diabetic experts recommend the following:

- Eat about the same amount of food each day.
- Do not skip meals or snacks. It may be wise to eat 5 small meals (breakfast, snack, lunch, snack, dinner) per day.
- Take prescribed medicines religiously at the same time each day.
- Dedicate at least 30 minutes everday for exercise.

This can be as simple as a brisk walk, dancing, gardening or playing badminton with friends

For greater convenience, add a nutritional supplement or meal replacement to your diet that is especially designed for people with diabetes.

Glucerna SR is a great-tasting, low-calorie, complete and balanced formulation with a Triple Nutri-Action System clinically-proven to help manage blood sugar response, help improve cholesterol level and help manage weight.

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SUPER! EXCLUSIVE

He's got love for you if you were born in the 80s

He's a 23-year-old MySpace sensation. He's reinventing disco out of Dumfries, Scotland. He's the fantastically retro-futuristic Calvin Harris

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT noise? It's disco being revolutionized, kids. Please pay close attention.

Rocking back and forth, blasting light out of all sides like an unhinged mirror ball, Calvin Harris' music glitters like a gaggle of early 80s Halston models running to the bathroom. An SOS to other members of the coalition of the willing (to party), the 23-year-old's brand of future-disko—with its solid grooves, quirky bits, and gushing synths—wants to rescue you from boredom and take you to the dancefloor asap.

"I would like to describe it as dance music," the cult producer-slash-singer-slash-bedroom-knob-twiddler tells me rather modestly. Calvin says that he made his debut album, "I Created Disco," dropping next week, fueled by chicken fillets. He also claims to know the whereabouts of Alex Kapranos' secret studio-hideaway-laboratory since, like him, the Franz Ferdinand frontman also calls Dumfries, Scotland home. He then says that he may have only made some of this stuff up. Calvin Harris is awesome.

RETRO-FUTURISTIC DISCOLICIOUS. 23-year-old Calvin Harris wants to meet you on the dancefloor now.

Party supplies

The 14 tracks on his turbo-funky CD cost a whopping 0 pence to record, which makes the fact that all of them are totally slamming even more of an accomplishment. "It's happy music for happy people. People should buy it and put it in their car and in their house and become enlightened," Calvin continues. Yeah. Just add chips, dip, and a magician and call it a party.

The retro gloss of "Acceptable in the 80s," the lead single, features Calvin's own vocals and kicks a whole new set of butt cheeks. If he were made to choose his favorite track in the record, that would have to be it. Totally.

"That song means a lot. It was the first time I ever shot a video and finally released on CD. Yeah, that one!" The tune's robo-falsetto is Calvin tipping his tiger-skin top hat to all sorts of things from that decade—the hair, the

HE'S GOT/ D2

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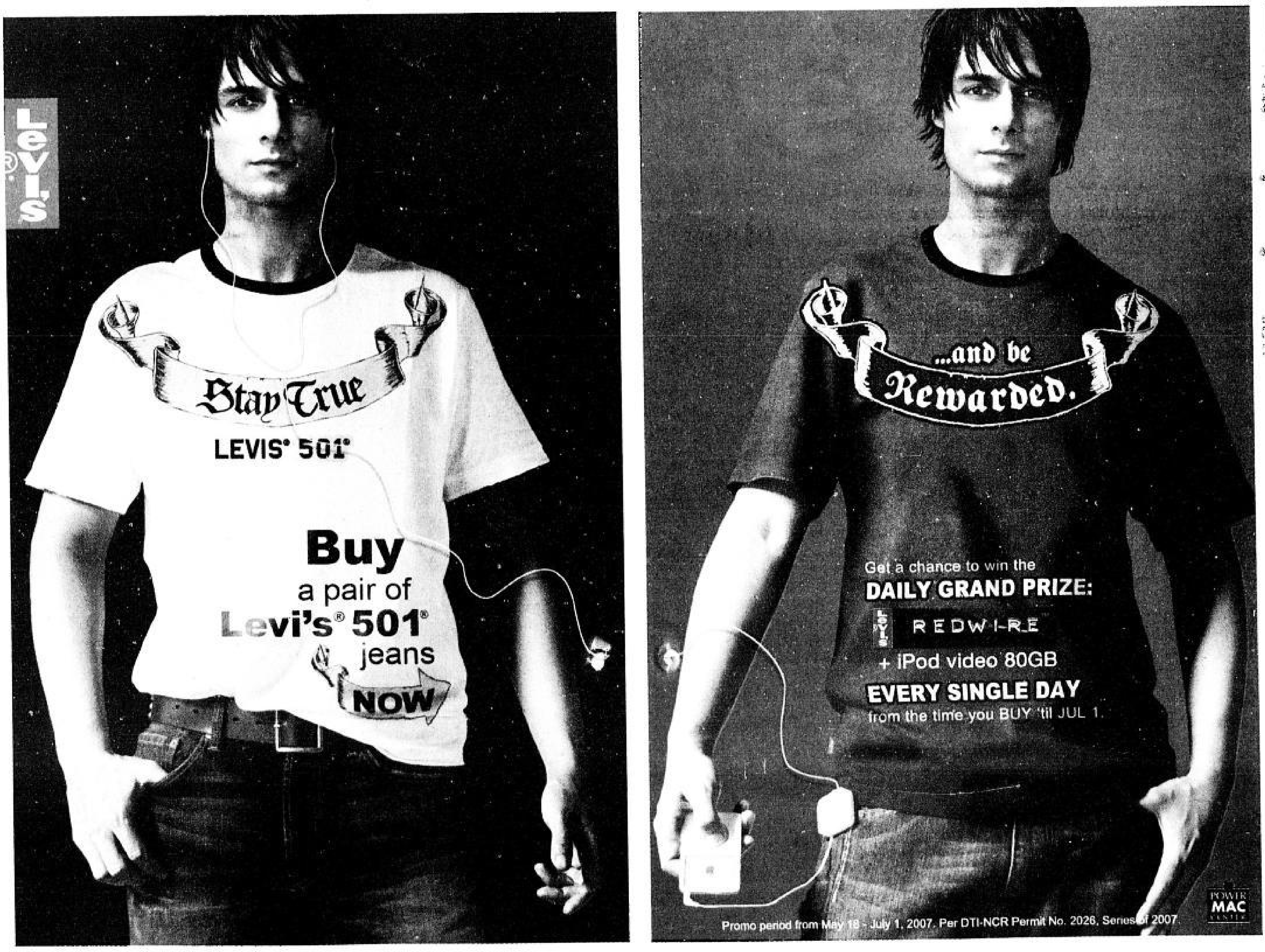
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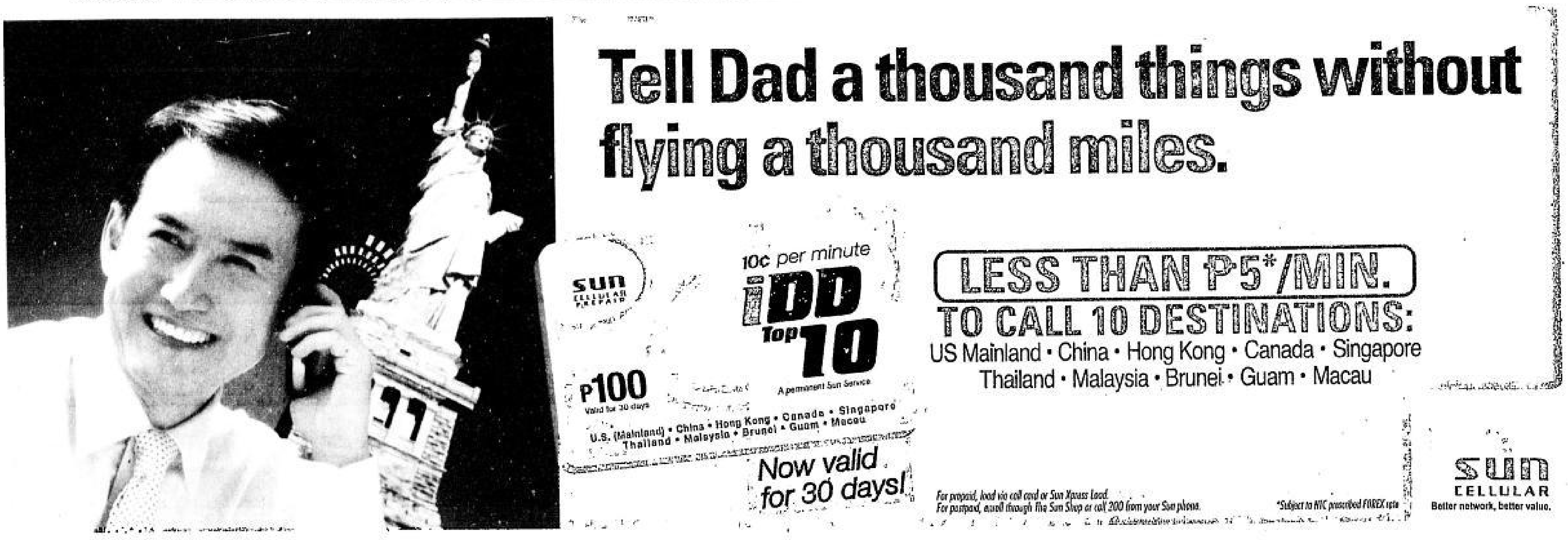
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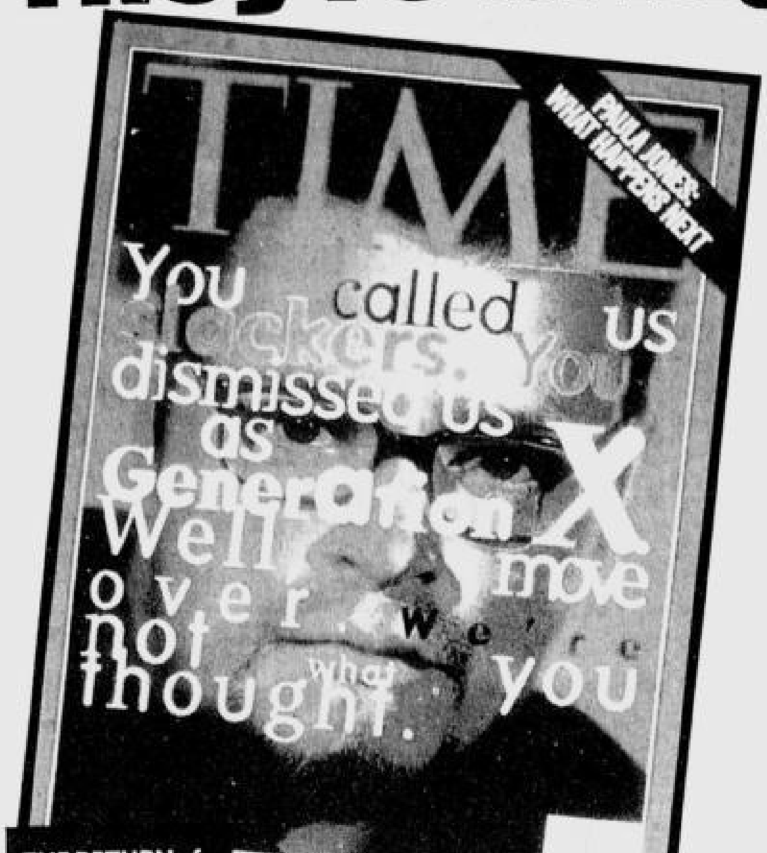
They're bringing angsty back


TIME
PAULA JONES: WHAT HAPPENS NEXT
You called us slackers. You dismissed us as Generation X. Well move over. We're not what you thought.

THE RETURN of Generation X?

By Pepe Diokno

GENERATION X, WITH THEIR 90s angst and cynicism, brought a faux-generation gap that got everyone listening. At its inception, Gen X was *the* generation to be in—you know, with their REM, Alanis, and Nirvana; with their long hair, tattered jeans, and flannel; with their spray paint, mix tapes, and guitars. The generation was rebellious, slightly intellectualized, at the brink of the Internet age—and everyone (including themselves) thought they were going to change the world.

That is, until Gen X turned 30, realized they needed real jobs and had babies. Hampered by their cynicism, they failed to get beyond their angst and influence the institutions they loathed. Instead, today, at their corporate McJobs, they use the time they have after five p.m. to reminisce the good 'ol days.

Today is much different from the time of Generation X. All the angst Gen X brought with them has been sweeped away by giddy Lindsay Lohan fans. All the "individuality" Gen X treasured has been trashed in lieu of Idols and Bench models, in lieu of the ubiquitous hipster (you know you all look the same!). Instead of Melissa Ethridge, Mandy Moore; pink shirts instead of flannel; metrosexual over brooding antisocial.

The long xoxo goodbye

All this has left Gen X a bit irrelevant—obsolete, maybe—but ultimately forgotten; along with Cobain, buried with all the promise the generation had showed. As their ironic one-liners have been drowned by the sappy onslaught of "like omg that's hot LOL," Xers have been rendered helpless against the current world order. The people they vilified are the ones who rule the world today—those dumb no-talent anorexia endorsers. *Ranting* was what made Gen X what it was, and that's totally not cool anymore. These days, anyone with an opinion is a sexually frustrated, acne-coated activist.

So Generation X was relegated to the fringes—in seedy rock joints and coffee shops, mostly so on the Internet, where people are free to vandalize pictures and bitch about issues. But the Xers seemed to have their days numbered there, too. It was in these virtual waste bins that they—with their angst and cynicism—were to die slow, painful deaths, desperately hoping for just another chance from time.

Which, uh oh, is exactly what they may be getting. The return of Generation X may have just started… in Paris.

Hilton, that is.

PARIS HILTON'S jail sentence may have started it all.

Generation X has had no choice but to sit back and silently watch the world degenerate into societystar worship, because societystars have had all power. The Me Generation, in whom all the purchasing power lies, fed on stars like Paris Hilton, Lindsay Lohan, and Britney Spears. These stars, in turn, fed on the oblivious generation. It was a strong power cycle the Xers couldn't break—that is, until a Paris Hilton was sentenced to jail.

See, Paris Hilton is the epitome of what the Me Generation has come to. Not only was Paris put in jail, but also was the generation that put Paris on a pedestal. This was the miracle Gen X needed in order to stage a comeback, fueled by all the angst they had bottled up.

Baby comeback

Concrete proof of this comeback was at the 2007 MTV Movie Awards. Host Sarah Silverman came out, and instead of a Jack Black-like song-and-dance intro, she got up on stage, and in true

He's got love for you if you were born in the 80s

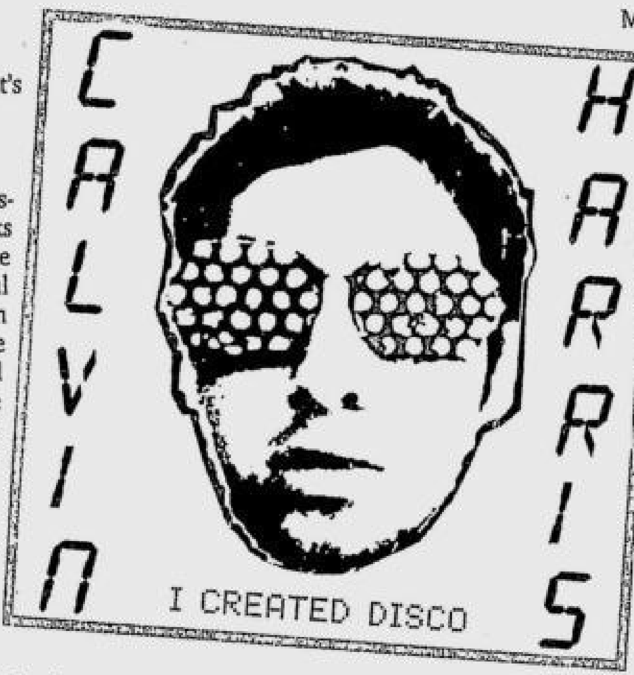
From page D1

curls, the clothes, everything. That's what's it's about.

Just press play, people

And the rest? "Colours," he fesses, is about girls' clothes. "Chicks who don't wear colors annoy me because there are many wonderful colors in world—and those women who are not utilizing them make me very upset. Although black and white does look good. But if you're gonna go out, I wanna see someone in a big canary-yellow hoodie. And big baggy pink jeans."

The subtly far-out song titles ("Merrymaking At My Place," "The Girls," "This Is The Industry") speak for themselves. "My tunes aren't supposed to invoke deep thought within people; they're just to get you dancing. But musically it's for the brain. It's not music for stupid people. I take great pride in my productions. It's not knocked out in a few seconds."



IT WAS ACCEPTABLE IN THE 80s. An Amiga computer produced the sounds on his debut CD.

Thanks to an Amiga computer

"So how did you really start with your music? Your bio mentioned an Amiga computer," I quiz him.

"Yeah, that's right! That stuff was based on an Amiga computer which I had anyway to play games like Tetris and Frogger but discovered that I also have this software for making music on it," he blurts out enthusiastically. "So when I was 14, I started making music as a hobby and just carried on to my teenage years and a bit longer than I should have."

Thanks to that ancient plaything, Calvin Harris, who was also Marks & Spencer's champion shelf-stacker for two years in a row, is now becoming wildly popular in clubland, proving that aspiring music phenoms need not splash out on fancy-pants gadgets.

Aside from producing his own killer, fun-loving beats, he has likewise done remixes for All Saints and Groove Armada. Now touring the UK with Faithless and his own full band, Calvin is completely stoked with playing in front of over 100,000 religious dance music disciples. "Oh, it was great! We were singing in front of lots of people in a very big arena. It was an experience we love a lot!"

You know you're becoming famous when…

Speaking of nimble keystrokes, it was through this tiny thing called MySpace that he exploded, getting his ass into a VIP section of a club he never realized he'd get into. "Yeah, it helped me a lot because I've spent about 8 years sending out demo CDs but no one ever listened to them," Calvin explains. "So as soon as I joined MySpace, it became a lot easier for A&R men and record companies to hear the songs and basically that's how I got signed in the first place."

But then the Internet is also a very shady place, filled with peeps who think that everything posted on it is the truth. So I decide to throw something from Wikipedia his way: "The friendship between Kylie Minogue and Harris is said to have developed into something more. A source told News of the World: 'Kylie and Calvin have spent loads of time together working on the album. They've struck up a very close friendship and are now an item. Kylie has had a tough time but has finally found happiness with Calvin. He always makes her laugh and they're a lovely couple.'" End quote.

Is that accurate—accurate or accurate meaning bull in a burning paper bag? "It's very inaccurate, I say. I wish someone would remove that. I don't know. They're made up stories. But they're very funny to read so that's okay," he gives the phone version of a shrug.

Best/worst, y/n

Okay, so Calvin Harris has what it takes to make the floor break in a sweaty, electro-coated rash. But what gets him all silly? He counts Stardust's classic banger, "Music Sounds Better With You," as his top tune with Full Intention's "Everybody Loves A Sunshine" a close second.

The worst? "Number one would be 'Doop' by Doop; number two, Alex Party's 'Don't Give Me You Life;' number three, Dr. Alban, 'It's My Life;' number four Crystal Waters' 'Life;' and number would be, probably… I don't have a number five," he trails off. Sigh. The nineties. Anyway, he's listening to mostly Raphael Saadiq now.

Cool Capricorns, Inc.

Since his birthday, Jan. 17, is the day right before mine, I wanted to know if he is stubborn and headstrong like a typical Capricorn. I mean, I've been told that about myself, like, several times already. Does he believe in that crap?

"Do you? Of course not!" he laughs. "I think, it's well, you know people. If they believe in that, that's fine. I'm not one of those. No." And with that monumental question settled once and for all, it was time to move on to more pressing matters.

JUST DANCE, PEOPLE. Calvin Harris has been packing arenas all over the UK with dance music gods, Faithless.

"So, hey, I also noticed that you like big-ass sunglasses," I finally ask. See, the biggest pair I got was from a drugstore in Balboa, California and it's almost as huge as a windshield. They're apparently for old people, when they go fishing and stuff. Calvin Harris cracks up again.

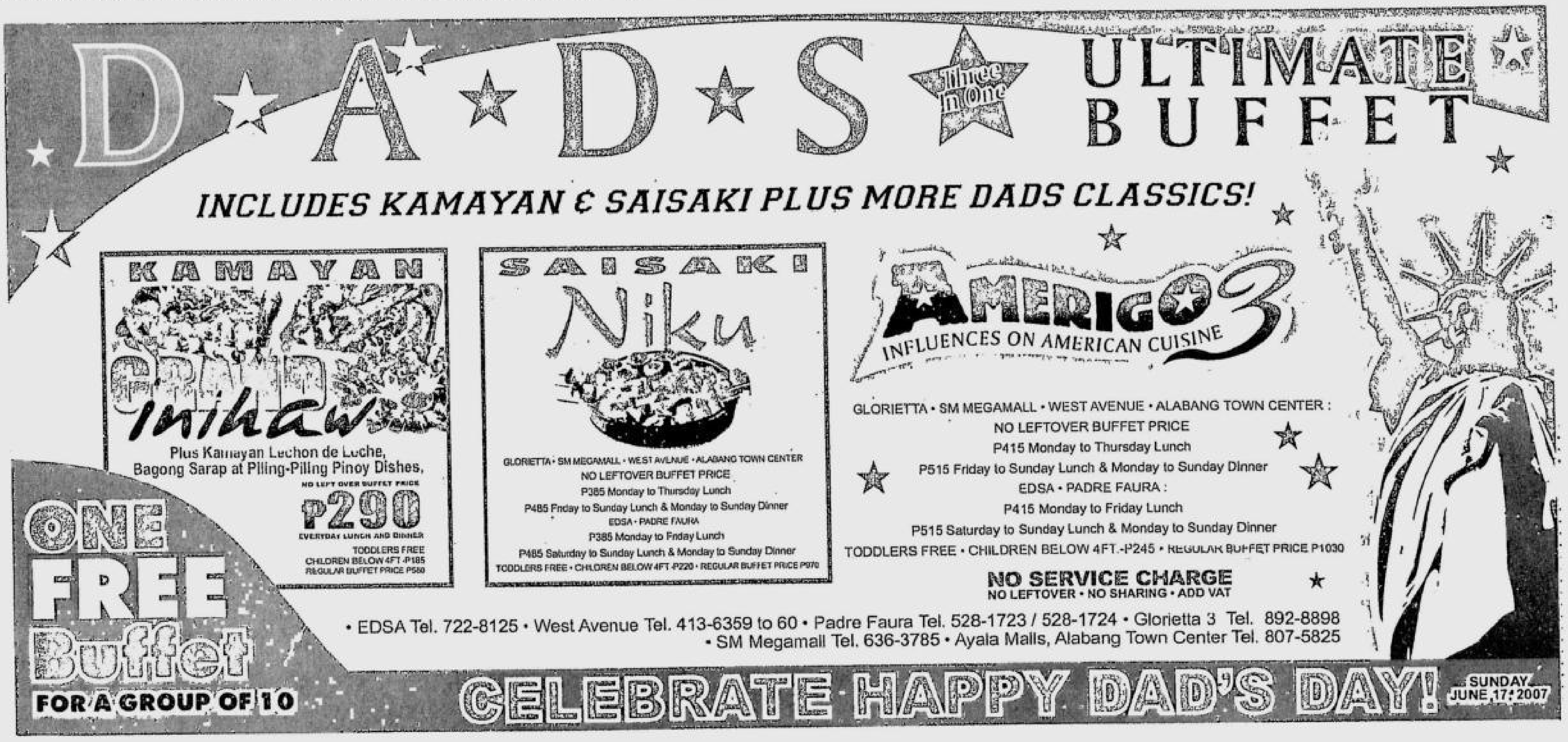
Super FlyEye

"Oh, my most favorite pair… I actually made myself a pair out of cardboard," he says about his trademark eyewear. "My fly-eye spectacles allow me to see visions. I can be that of a fly."

To prove it, he has set up his own label, FlyEye, perhaps naming it after that creative, observant spirit. "Disco disappeared, didn't it?" he asks rhetorically. "Everyone got sick of it. Now I'm reviving it, with space goggles, or something." Well, it's true and it's happening. You have been warned.

So let's raise a toast, maybe even do a few shots, to the multitalented, those special dudes who can't get to sleep at night with all the rad ideas ricocheting in their ideas and all the rad projects awaiting their busy little hands. Now that he's reinventing disco straight out of his bedroom in Dumfries, Scotland, here's to the fantastically retro-futuristic Calvin Harris.

www.myspace.com/calvinharristv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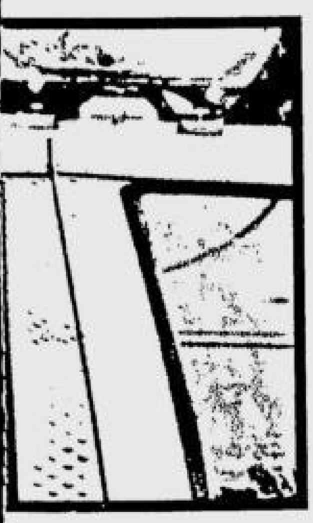

Gen X style, b*tched.

"The judge says that it's going to be a no-frills thing and that is ridiculous. (Paris) is totally going to get special treatment," Silverman ranted. "As a matter of fact, I heard that to make her feel more comfortable in prison, the guards are going to paint the bars to look like p*nises… I just worry that she's going to break her teeth on those things."

Watching the MTV awards was like 1994 all over again, with Sarah Silverman as Xer icon Janeane Garofalo.

A 'Me' me no gusta

It isn't just Paris, though. Me Generation icons are falling all over the place. It started with Britney Spears—she got fat, showed the world her vagina, and shaved her head. Lindsay Lohan, on the other hand, just got nabbed by police for drunk driving and drug possession. It's a phenomenon. Suddenly, society cretins all around the world look like they're "falling from grace."

The power of these Me Generation icons has been the illusion of their invincibility—they can drink *and* drive *and* make millions *and* have great sex lives while *not* suffering from syphilis. These icons are nothing without this illusion. Without it, they can't stop Gen X from total world domination.

Now that it's the symbols Gen Me that are ready to pass out and die slow, painful, un-cool deaths, is Gen X ready to reclaim their throne?

Will they bring angsty back?

Let's see.

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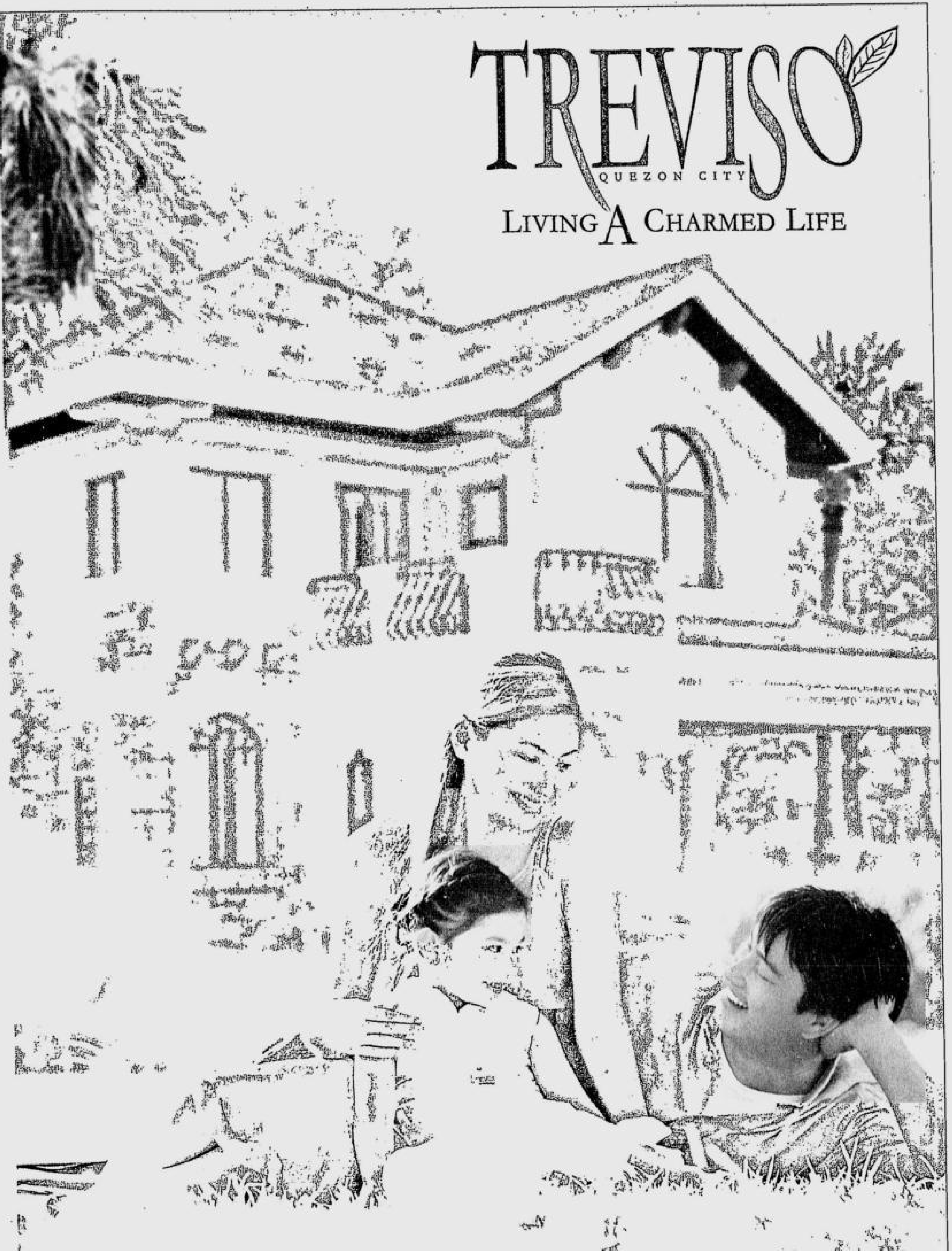

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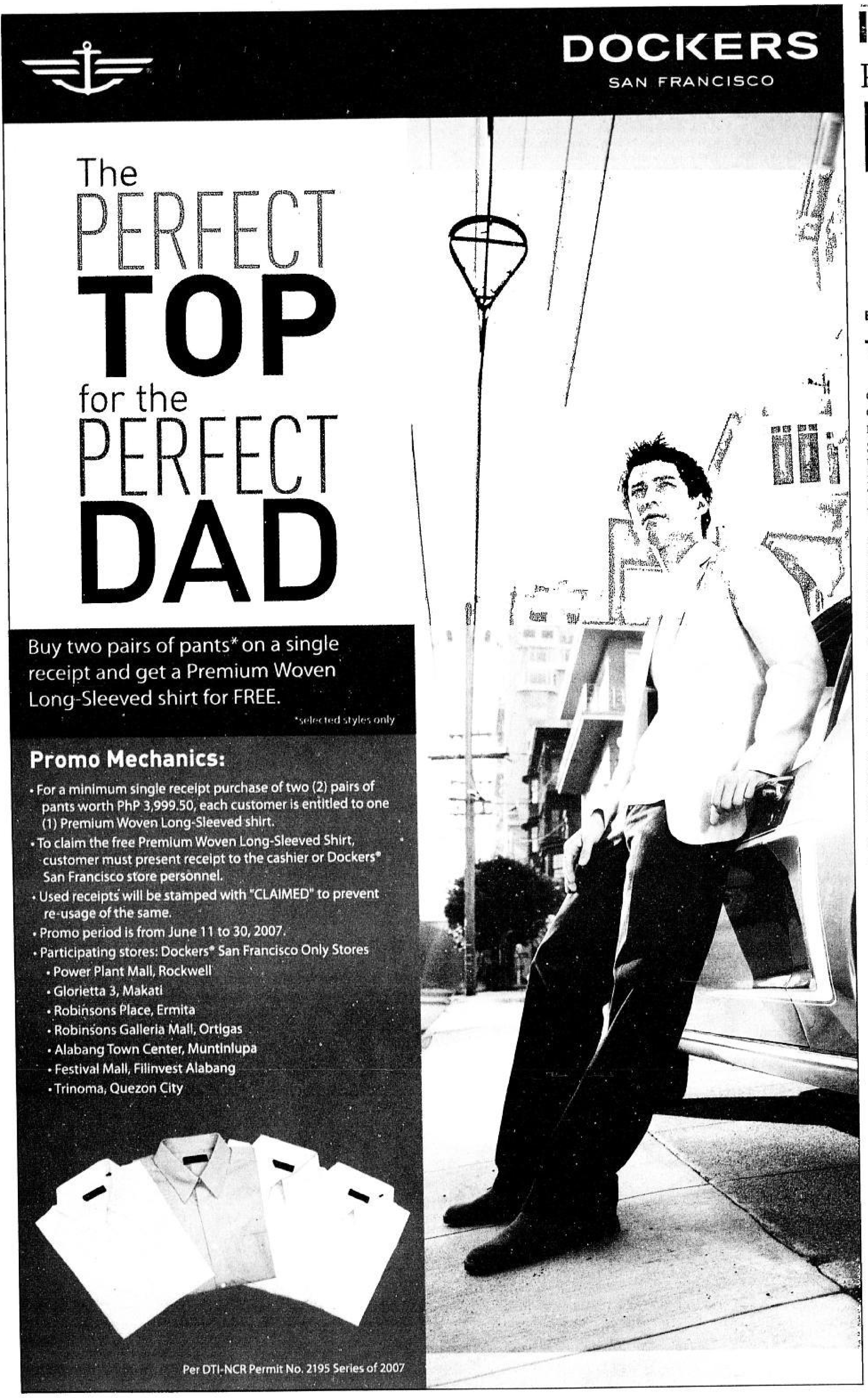

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2195 Series of 2007

PINOY TV

Battle of the Bad

By Pepe Diokno

WITH THE SCHOOL YEAR starting, TV stations are racing to captivate the country's next batch of dropouts by offering a variety of new programming. With routine revamps, stars getting axed and transferred, and the absolute mindlessness of it all, for the next few months, Philippine TV will be really interesting to watch. If you don't have cable.

ABS-CBN is mixing things up with a new morning show. They've also added a reality contest called "Be Bench." The contest is about empowerment: to be a Bench model, one doesn't have to be a big star, half-Caucasian and a semi-star, or full-Caucasian and not a star at all; short brown people with flat noses, nappy hair and braces can model too!

Who am I kidding?

GMA 7, on the other hand, is upping the ante, bringing in a huge international actor and pop star named David Hasslehoff—I mean, Billy Crawford. *(Hasslehoff's the first name that comes to mind when you think, "big in Germany," and "straight-to-DVD." My apologies.)*

Anyway, it looks like the two big networks are covered for this season. However, other stations like QTV, Studio 23, and ABC 5, also want a piece of the Pinoy dropout pie. These stations are coming up with interesting new programming as well.

Super! has the low-down on these new shows.

Wow, Wawie!

QTV / Saturdays / 1 a.m.

Ever wonder what happened to Judy Anne Santos' fugly former love-team partner, Wawie de Guzman? "Wow, Wawie" chronicles the everyday adventures of Wawie de Guzman as he tries to showcase his various talents while working odd jobs around the metro. Of course, I expected you to stop reading this paragraph at, "Judy Anne Santos' fugly former love-team partner."

Ariel and Maverick (die)

ABC 5 / 24/7

Synopsis: Ariel and Maverick are confined to a ward at the Philippine General Hospital after contracting a mystery disease. Because Ariel and Maverick are the only "talents," ABC 5 has, ABC 5 management decides to keep the station's two cameras on the duo. Watch this show and realize that disease isn't funny, and neither are Ariel and Maverick.

Shall we Dove?

ABS-CBN / Daily / 10 p.m.

ABS-CBN is producing a spin-off show to "Deal or No Deal". The result: "Shall we Dove: The Search for Kris Aquino's Next Top Back-up Dancers."

The premise of the show is simple. Happy new mom Kris Aquino has, naturally, gained a little weight. So to compensate, ABS is making the rest of the "Deal or No Deal" set bigger as well. Meanwhile, Dove is taking product integration to a whole new level—the contestants of "Shall we Dove" will all be overweight.

These aren't actual TV shows. Like you didn't know that.

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2207 (Globe)

Pod life, New York-style

By Kate Alvarez

IT WAS LIKE PICKING A DESIGNer handbag at the sale section. I was traveling to New York City for the first time, so I wanted a hotel that was stylish yet affordable. After months of searching online for one that suits my personality, and not to mention, my budget, I booked The Pod Hotel.

The Mod Pod

Inspired by the young hipster generation, The Pod Hotel is minimalist yet fashionable. The minute I stepped in, my eyes wandered around the colorful walls and the very inviting Florence Knoll sofa. As soon as I saw the lobby's molded globe lights and club chairs, I knew I was going to spend a lot of coffee breaks there. And instead of the typical framed paintings on the wall, the reception area boasted of LCD screens playing flash shows of, what else, the Pod.

While the hotel markets itself to the 20- to 30-somethings, I found a variety of guests aged 21 to 70—made up mostly of corporate people, interns, college grads, and tourists.

"Wow, things sure have changed at this hotel," said a middle-aged businessman, who was checking in for his nth time. He talked about the days when the hotel was still known as Pickwick Arms.

I could only imagine how something called Pickwick Arms looked like, but I was too busy admiring their upgraded version. Each of the 347 rooms have an iPod docking station, an LCD screen TV with cable, and unlimited WiFi access. My iPod Video and MacBook felt right at home, just as I did.

Small wonders

That night, as I crawled into my single private bedroom, I learned my first New York lesson—everything here is small and expensive.

For the typical New Yorker, a private hotel bedroom that costs $150 a night is a bargain. But for a third world journalist like me, it nearly broke my bank. I could have opted to share one of the Pod's bunkrooms with a complete stranger to save dollars, but I haven't yet completely immersed in New York's hectic and spontaneous lifestyle to be comfortable with that arrangement.

"God, this place is small!" commented a New Jersey friend who visited my 90 square feet room. I joked that no basketball players are allowed to check in—they would risk serious head injury.

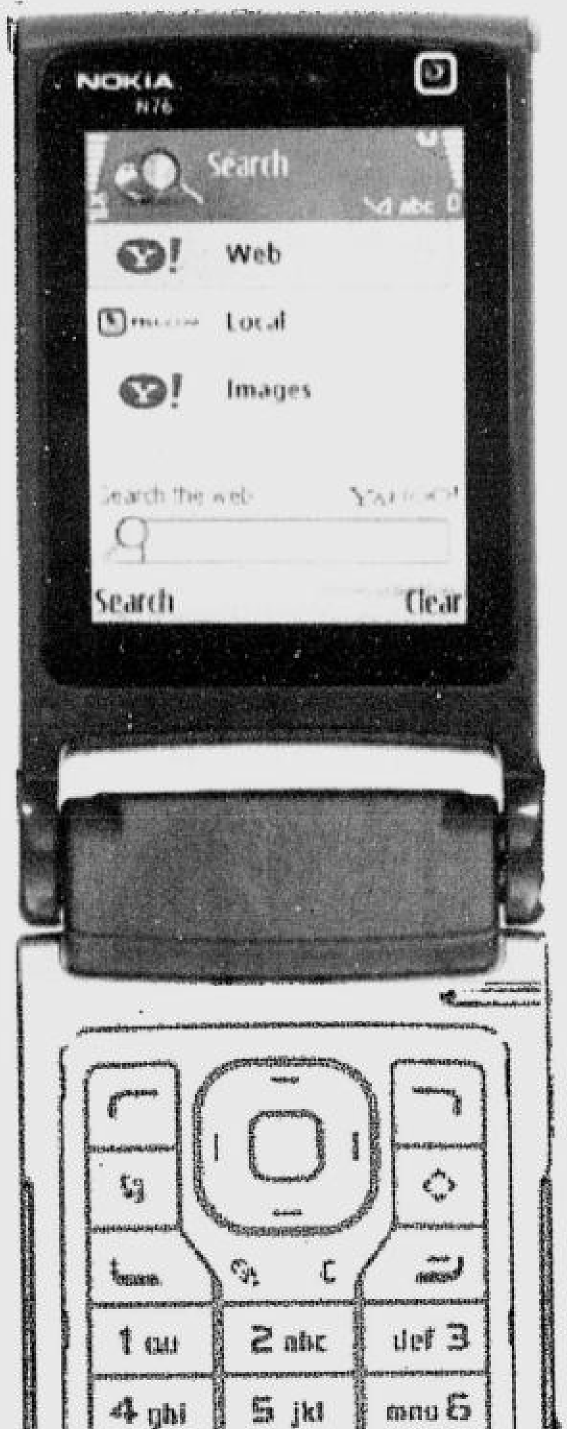
Miniature jokes aside, the Pod's space-saving solutions were impressive. Designer Vanessa Guilford drew her inspiration from mass transit's streamlined design approach, as seen with the stainless bathroom fixtures that reminded me of airplane lavatories, and the Charles and Ray Eames metal mesh chairs.

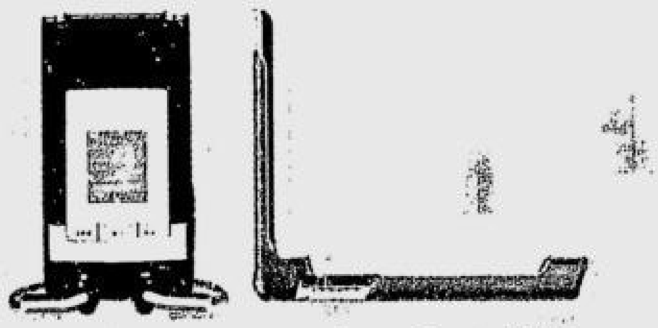
The compactness of the place had its ups and downs. I'm staying in New York for over a month, so I, the pack rat, brought two duffel trolleys. Fitting them into my room was a miracle. It took a while for me to get used to taking baby steps around the room as my legs kept hitting the edges of the sofa bed and table. I still have my bruises to prove it.

But having a small room was, in a way, comforting. Being in this huge, great city for the first time overwhelmed me. After walking

POD LIFE/ E3

THE AUTHOR poses with one of her new friends at the Pod Hotel





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Dads in season

AS THE MAN OF THE HOUSE TAKES THE spotlight this Father's Day, Manila Pavilion Hotel honors his benevolent supremacy by arranging an extravagant buffet that will satisfy the world's biggest appetite… our dads!

Soften his tough guy look by the lavishness of Seasons' buffet display. Warm his heart by the tenderness of the service and convince his scrutinizing instincts with the expertise of the station chefs as they prepare a savory dish with impressive dexterity.

Since this celebration calls for nothing less than big, the hotel is throwing in more treats to make the occasion grander. Only on this special day, Manila Pavilion Hotel will be honoring the dining privileges under the Pavilion Gold and the "Be Our Guest 2+1" promo!

And finally before you hit for home, take your dad for an R&R detour to the Embassy Spa. Relieve all that tension caused by work and aging. A good foot spa and a whole body tension release massage complete with shower and sauna for only P500 will do the trick.

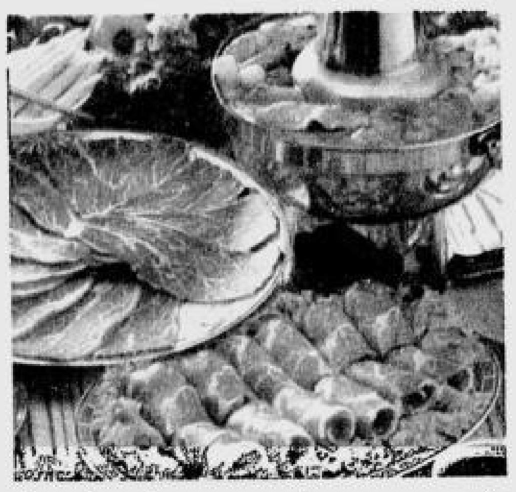
So call Manila Pavilion Hotel at 526-1212 for that phat father's day celebration.

Eat all you can at Tong Yang

SAVOR AS MUCH AS YOU WANT OF THE goodness of US Beef - corn fed to tenderness served at Tong Yang Shabu-Shabu & Barbecue Restaurant in Jupiter Street.

Revel in a food adventure wherein you are your own chef! Delight in your very own shabu-shabu concoction. Mix and match imported sliced beef with your favorite veggies and other shabu-shabu items like mushroom meat balls, fish balls and squid balls.

Relish the appetizing aroma as they simmer in your choice broth of chicken, sate, vegetarian, sinigang or the famous spicy Taiwan Mala and also the Korean Kimchi Soup. There are more than 100 food items to choose from the Tong Yang fare of Filipino, Chinese, Japanese and Korean specialties. Surely you can't wait as tender beef belly morsels become done to your liking as they sizzle on the smokeless tabletop grill. Cooking it yourself at Tong Yang is half the fun of enjoyable dining as couples, family and friends sip their favorite drinks while enjoying cozy talks as the food gets done right before their eyes. No need to worry about the wait as tasty appetizers prepare you for the main courses.



For more discriminating diners, they can choose to avail of the US Angus beef or US short ribs on an a la carte basis. Aside from the prime meat selection, a wide variety of succulent barbecue items are spread on the buffet such as pork neck or pork belly, yaki tori chicken BBQ and a whole lot more. Fresh seafood selection includes salmon belly, shrimps, lapu-lapu fillet, tuna belly and spicy squid.

Now, if that doesn't whet your taste buds yet, check out the real deal at Tong Yang Shabu-Shabu & Barbecue Restaurant along the popular restaurant row in Jupiter Street, Bel-Air located between Edsa and Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. Other Tong Yang branches are located in Level 4, Bldg. A of SM Megamall; at 1498 Quezon Avenue; Pan Pacific Hotel in Adriatico; G/F Chimes Specialty Stores in Davao and Regency Hotel in Boracay.

BBQ & Shabu-Shabu Eat-All-You-Can is available for lunch, Monday to Saturday at P390+VAT and at P430+ for dinner, Monday to Saturday and Sunday lunch. Shabu-Shabu Eat-All-You-Can goes for P250+VAT for lunch and P350+VAT for dinner, Monday to Sunday. Tong Yang Jupiter is open everyday for Lunch 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner from 6-10 p.m. For reservations and other details, call tel. nos. (02)899-3388, 897-4148.

Father's Day Special Buffet at Bellevue

GIVE DAD MORE THAN A BEAR HUG THIS Dad's Day by throwing him a feast fit for a king. The Father's Day Special Buffet at The Bellevue Hotel, Alabang's food Mecca, does just that. On June 17, delight dad with an eye-popping selection of gustatory surprises over brunch, such as fresh oysters, lechon, roast US prime rib, bacalao stew with pepper and onion, seared salmon on spinach with lemon cream, stir-fried squid with sate sauce and roasted beef fillet with pink pepper.

Also, treat him to a Dad's Suite Escape package at The Bellevue Hotel, southern Metro Manila's penultimate leisure and business hotel on June 15 to 17. For only P8,000, P14,000 or P16,000 per night for Executive, Premiere and Bellevue Suites respectively, get a weekend stay at a luxuriously appointed suite, gift certificate for an overnight stay in a deluxe room during weekends valid on the next stay, buffet breakfast at Café d' Asie (two persons for Executive, four for Premiere and six for Bellevue Suite), 20 percent discount on spa services at The Bellevue Spa Club, one complimentary bottle of sparkling wine at Café d' Asie for every group of four during lunch or dinner, complimentary use of gym and swimming pool, waived minimum consumable charge at 20/20, unlimited broadband Internet access, daily shuttle service to nearby Alabang commercial and financial districts, welcome fruit platter, two bottles of mineral water daily and local newspaper. Happy Father's Day to all dads! For inquiries, call 771-8181.

Swiss-Belhotel International now in Kuwait

AT THE RECENT SIGNING CEREMONY, THE Hong Kong-based Swiss-Belhotel International Middle East LLC and Kuwait Plaza Hotel WLL officially announced the hotel management agreement for Swiss-Belhotel Plaza Kuwait. The management agreement is the first in Kuwait for Swiss-Belhotel Int'l, a new participant in the competitive Middle East market for hotels. Swiss-Belhotel Int'l enjoys a reputation as a leading name in hotel management, with more than 20 years experience and strong global brand recognition. The group is known for quality and service excellence in hospitality. The Swiss-Belhotel Plaza Kuwait is a 4-star deluxe hotel located in the heart of Kuwait's commercial and banking district, 20 minutes drive from the airport and adjacent to a 3-storey shopping mall. Swiss-Belhotel Int'l is represented in the country by The Linden Suites in Ortigas Center, Pasig City. For more information, call (63-2)638-7878 or visit their website at www.swiss-belhotel.com.

Father's day dining at Intercon

INTERCONTINENTAL MANILA HAS LINED-UP interesting dining options for fathers on June 17. Visit Café Jeepney and partake of a sumptuous lunch buffet of local and international dishes for only P1,350++ per person. For a more elegant and intimate setting, Prince Albert Rotisserie's executive chef Patrick Fournes has prepared an exquisite set lunch menu for only P2, 200++ per person. Menu includes Warm Seasonal Asparagus with Marsala Sauce and Grilled Duck Liver Escalope, Grilled Salmon Filet with Orange Saffron Sauce and Baby Calamari with Young Shallot, Sea Urchin and Smoked Scallops Soup, Roasted US Angus Beef with Yorkshire Pudding, Baked Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables, and Trio of Prince Albert Crème Brulee. Dads availing of these dining treats get a special amenity kit from Dermalogica. Treat dad to an overnight stay at the newly refurbished guestrooms and get exciting freebies. Especially for Dad room package is available from June 1-30. For inquiries and reservations call 815-9711.

Dad's Day at Marco Polo Davao

MARCO POLO DAVAO IS COOKING UP SOMEthing special for the Father's Day celebration on June 17. For the first time, Marco Polo Davao's Café Marco offers roasted calf, which dads can see being grilled right before their very eyes as they enjoy the wide selections from the upgraded lunch and dinner buffet. Lotus Court, on the other hand, will have roast Peking duck, roast pig and steamed lapu-lapu as its main showcase among the luscious buffet. Dads get to eat for free for every group of ten. Souvenirs and treats will also be given away. All these from Marco Polo Davao to give dads the ultimate indulgence from their loved ones. For inquiries and reservations, call (082)221-0888 local 7222 or 7232.

Apl. D. Ap stays at Astoria

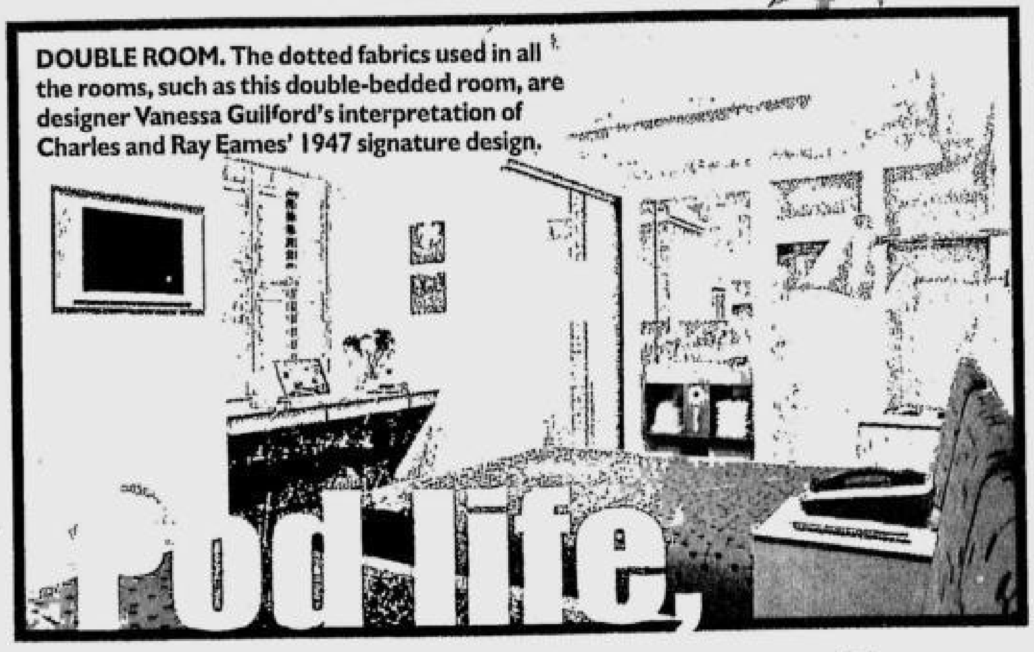
ALLAN 'APL.D.AP' PINEDA OF THE FAMED Black Eyed Peas was welcomed by Marcomm/PR manager Shariza Utuanis and hotel manager Ping Regalado during his stay at the Astoria Plaza Hotel. Astoria Plaza is ideally located at #15 J. Escriva Drive (formerly Amber Ave.) Ortigas Business District, Pasig City. For inquiries, you can call 687-1111. E-mail: sales@astoriaplaza.com, website: www.astoriaplaza.com Astoria Plaza is managed with distinction by Genesis Hotels and Resorts.

Father's Day at Dusit

THESE FATHER'S DAY LET DAD FEEL PAMPERED and let the pampering begin at Dusit Hotel Nikko. Book a room for the family and spend quality time bonding. Surprise him with a gift of one year membership at the hotel's new fitness center called DFiT. Or remove his stress and tension by treating him to that heavenly massage at the hotel's new Devarana Spa. Of course, one must not forget the saying that 'the best way to a man's heart is through his stomach,' and what better way to have that great meal than having it in any of Dusit Hotel Nikko's Asian specialty restaurants. On June 17, father's availing of the Father's Day specials like the set-menu at Benjarong, buffet at Thien Duong, The Café and Benkay and a la carte at Tosca, will receive a special gift from Manels (for fathers dining in Benjarong, Thien Duong and Tosca) and Rustan's Essences gift pack (for fathers dining at The Café and Benkay). A lucky father will receive a gift certificate for 3 days/2 nights stay with boat transfers for two adults and two kids at Pearl Farm Beach Resort. The hotel will also be giving away a gift certificate for an overnight stay for two in a deluxe room and a gift certificate of food and beverage worth P2,000 applicable in any Asian specialty restaurants of the hotel. For inquiries and reservations, call 867-3333.

Uno revamped

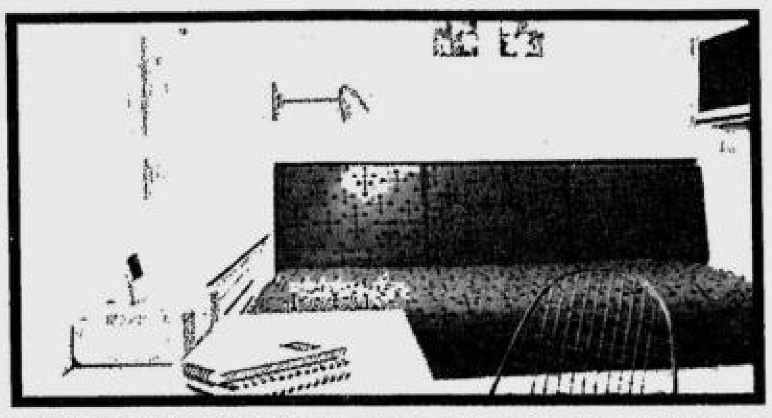
NEW GOODIES AT WATERFRONT CEBU CITY Hotel and Casino's Uno are the result of the culinary prowess of executive chef Anders Hallden and his all-star culinary team. New colors, new spices and new flavors now abound at the lunch and dinner buffet of the hotel's coffeeshop. In the new buffet spread, Uno diners can now enjoy a create-your-own-sandwich station, an Italian corner of grilled vegetables and jars of roasted garlic with herbs and marinated vegetables, as well as refreshing fruit and spice shooters. The latest highlight of the buffet is the noodle chef, who creates noodles from scratch to be enjoyed with your choice of seafood, beef or chicken broth. From June 9 to 23, Uno will feature Swedishes, a Swedish food festival promoting herring, salmon and other Swedish delicacies prepared by Swedish executive chef Anders Hallden. For P800+++ per person, Swedishes will include a complimentary Absolut vodka station. Reservations are recommended and can be made by calling (32)232-6888 local 8201 and 8605. Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino is located at Salinas Drive, Lahug Cebu City, Philippines.



DOUBLE ROOM. The dotted fabrics used in all the rooms, such as this double-bedded room, are designer Vanessa Guilford's interpretation of Charles and Ray Eames' 1947 signature design.

Pod life, New York-style

QUEEN ROOM. A room fit for a queen—a minimalist queen, that is.



HOME SWEET HOME. The two windows in my single room gave me a great view of 51st Avenue. No need to check the weather report—one look outside and you'd know what outfit to wear.

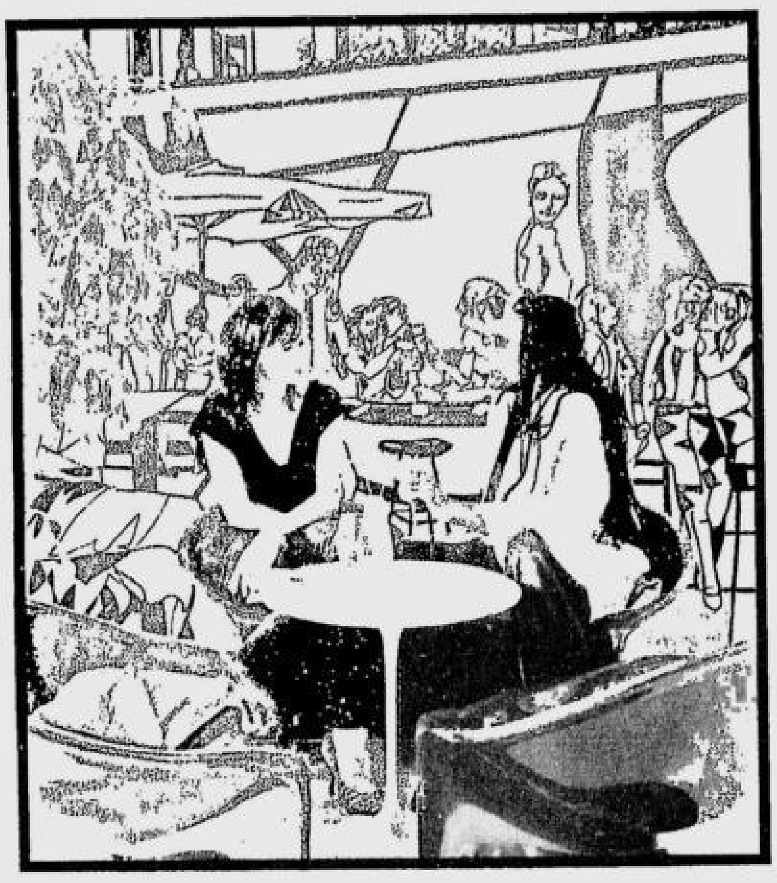
From page E1

miles around the city, as well as learning to shuttle myself around the labyrinth they call the subway, it was nice to come home to a small, cozy room, as I shut down the blinds and temporarily drifted away from the busy metro.

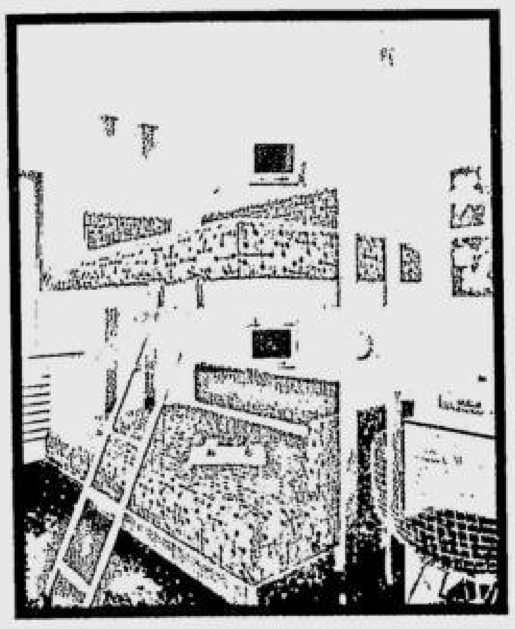
Pod culture

For most people, hotels are simply a place to sleep at night, while they spend most of the day outside. My New York immersion happened both in and out of the hotel.

In the day, I would explore the city, sampling Lexington Avenue's street delicacies and visiting the tourist spots. I mastered the subway route, thanks to my now torn and overused MTA map. Yes, I also took a zillion photos and unabashedly shopped for I LOVE NY shirts.



POD'S LOUNGE. The lobby's chic mural is one of the favorite photo spots of Pod dwellers.



BUNK-BED ROOM. While all other beds have built-in drawers to maximize storage space, the bunk-in bedrooms don't. But the personal slide-in LCD TVs make up for the lack of storage.

But whenever I'd head back to the Pod, I would encounter people who are just as interesting as the characters I see along the NYC avenues. There was the proud father I met in the elevator, wearing his "Geezer" shirt as he told me about his daughter who just graduated from the Fashion Institute of Technology.

There were the Paris Hilton doppelgangers, wearing their bug-eye shades, halter dresses and pencil-thin stilettos.

There was the mysteriously seductive MacBook guy who spent late WiFi nights at the lobby alone, dressed in stylish corporate clothing.

And, of course, there were the Pod employees.

There was Al, the accommodating bellboy who pretended to gasp at the sight of my two duffel trolleys. It wasn't hard to miss him at the lobby with his funky gray jumpsuit.

There were Diego and Luis, the front desk agents who not only gave in to my crazy requests such as "Please take my pictures as I am a solo traveler who can't take pictures of myself," but also served as my advisors. I spent most of my first week desperately looking for an apartment to move into after the Pod, and these two gentlemen gave me moral support and advice.

I also found myself wandering around the hotel's amenities. I spent a number of bagel mornings at the outdoor garden, as I admired the office building's colorful mural. I took afternoon breaks at the lobby, reading a good book or striking conversations with my fellow tourists.

I discovered the Pod's roof deck a little too late. On my last day at the hotel, I saw the breathtaking view from the roof deck for the first time. I whipped out my camera and took a dozen snapshots. Wish I had spent nights there lying on the extra-large couch and gazing at the New York sky before I moved into an apartment downtown.

Taxi, please!

I added the Pod into my little black book as I bid it adieu. I was sad to go, as I called that place my home for 10 days. I hugged the staff goodbye and hopped into a yellow cab that took me to a more affordable apartment a few streets down, where another chapter of my New York adventure began.

I told my Pod friends that I would come back to visit, especially after finding out that they will open a bar at the garden area this month. I would love to check in at the Pod again, perhaps when I've landed a glamorous New York job. But for now, I will have to settle for a budget-friendly apartment, unless I'd be willing to sell my designer bags to help extend my stay at the delightful Pod.

Peeps in a Pod

Meet some of the personalities that caught my attention at the Pod:

JJ, 23

Nationality: Filipino raised in New York
What's your impression of the Pod?
"I came here to pick up a friend. It's funny that I've lived in NY all my life, but I've never seen this hotel. It's a trendy hotel—perfect for my age group."

Sophie, 24

Nationality: Australian
Occupation: Actress
What's the best movie you've ever done?
"La Même Nuit (After Dark), a French movie. I played a girl who cheated on her boyfriend and he found out. Turns out he was cheating on me, too."

Luke, 21

Nationality: British
Occupation: [illegible]
What's the craziest thing you've done in New York?
"We met random people who were on a carriage, then we just hopped in and joined their tour."

Ottilie, 41

Nationality: Namibian
Occupation: Statistician
Has anyone ever told you that you don't look a day over 28?
"Yes, sometimes. I don't know why people don't want to believe me. Maybe I want to look older."

Rich, 22

Nationality: Filipino-Russian-German
Occupation: Student/personal assistant
Has anyone ever told you that you look like Richard Gutierrez?
"Yeah. Ever since he became popular in the Philippines, my parents think I should take his place."

Dave, 28

Nationality: Canadian
Occupation: Student
You're going to be featured in a Filipino newspaper. Do you know how to speak Tagalog?
"I know some curses. I have a Filipino friend who taught me."

Emma, 50

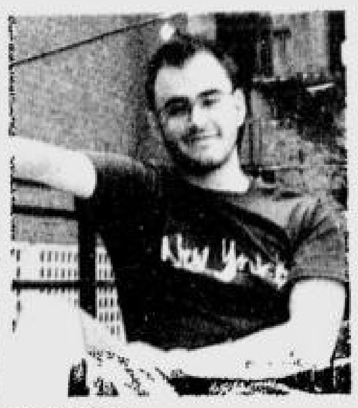
Nationality: Kenyan
Occupation: Economist
What was your first impression of New York?
"It's actually my first time here and I find New York [illegible] very busy place. [illegible] people."

Stacey, 31

Nationality: Canadian
Occupation: Child youth worker
What have you been up to?
"I've been visiting family and friends around the city."

Anne, 27, and Marco, 30

Nationality: Canadians
Occupation: Graphic designers
What are you doing in New York?
"We're actually about to check out. We were here for work and vacation."



Rob, 25

Nationality: British
Occupation: Teacher
Tell us about the most unusual student you've had.
"I'm not allowed to talk about my kids. I have to protect them."

We love you, Dad!

Show Dad how special he is by taking him to the Shang this June! The events, exhibits and values will surely make him happy.

Father's Day Promo!
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What's your Moto?

Motorola unveils its latest lineup of lust-haves for 2007. Prepare to be seduced

By Tals Diaz

THEY'RE GOOD-LOOKING and stylish. They're extremely cool, fun and intelligent. They're entertaining and up to sync with the modern world. Take them out on a date and they'll be an instant hit; take them out to a party and they'll be the talk of the town. They're great listeners. And best of all, they understand you completely.

Now if only they were human!

If Motorola's blueprint for perfection were replicated in real people, then dating around would be a vastly interesting endeavor (and monogamy would be banished to obsolescence). We can at least be thankful that we can enjoy such brilliant attributes in the newest cell phones. Especially now, as Motorola recently unveiled its latest phone-folio for 2007, in a sleek futuro-pop conference held in Bangkok, Thailand. Sawadee-cool!

Looking over the hot new lineup and delving deeper into each model's character, it was hard not to feel like being immersed an afternoon of speed dating for your ideal mobile mate. There was definitely a strong connection.

Thinnovation

The übermensch equivalent in the line up is the RAZR^2, which will undoubtedly, handsets down, be the lust-have of the season.

"With the RAZR^2, Motorola is once again redefining the cell phone," says Ed Zander, Motorola's chair and CEO. "This device takes the world's best-selling feature-phone to the next level ... the RAZR^2 is capable of giving the ultimate mobile experience."

Yes, the coolest phone out there just got even cooler. The iconic superthin RAZR, which garnered the best design accolade by Wallpaper magazine, and became the preferred glam gizmo of the boys in "Entourage," is now even better.

And even if the catwalks in Spain and Italy have banned ultra-thin models, the slimmer design of the new Moto models V9, V9m and V8 will certainly be embraced by the public. The next gen RAZR^2 is two millimeters thinner, and is sleeker and stronger. But beyond appearances, it has a more intelligent interface, has up to 2GB of memory with Stereo Bluetooth wireless technology that can store up to 1,000 songs, and includes an HTML browser with built-in email functionality. Beauty with brains—now there's a phenom hard to come by these days!

And guess what—it talks too! The RAZR^2 V8 can "talk" by speaking the interactive menu, contact lists, e-mails and even your text messages aloud. This feature was actually developed for people with visual impairments, but for our own inimitable, cell phone crazy culture, this just means that it comes hyper-handy when you're driving on the road and cannot resist those textual urges. Without even opening the phone, you can rely on the large external screen to read messages and reply with pre-programmed text messages.

The RAZR^2 also introduces Moto's innovative CrystalTalk technology, which automatically adjusts its audio function to ensure clear calls even in a noisy environment. Translation: When you're in a club and Stereo Sushi is on full blast, you could still hear your mate clearly on the other line, begging you to get him through the velvet rope.

Getting your kicks

So the slick new RAZR^2 is the undisputed "Most Popular" in the portfolio. Yet if there was a pick in the lineup for the rugged, all-around hottie, it would be the Moto Z8, also known as the world's first kick-slider phone. This one's a real catch if you fancy going out with the most valuable striker on the English Premier League. Or a Transformer (tell ya why in a bit!)

The Moto Z8 is a superfast phone-slash-MP3 player-slash-camera-slash-video recorder-slash web browser. It downloads songs in seconds, while you surf YouTube and MySpace without missing a beat. It rocks as an MP3 player, with a capacity of 1,000 songs and a stereo Bluetooth wireless technology. And it comes with the MOTOROKRT S9 headphones that allow you to enjoy listening to music without 'em white wires and earphones. Now that's hot, to quote Paris Hilton, incidentally one of the Moto ambassadors, who just loves her cells.

Take your Q

Now if you're into the sophisticated, intelligent type, then the MOTO Q 9 is the one for you. This baby would be the charismatic and clever type who likes Almodovar movies and contributes to fund raisers for Darfur.

This smartphone was developed as a multi-purpose communication device that boasts of state-of-the-art voice quality technology, messaging, speed, and keyboard. This is one of the fastest smartphones in the world today, which can provide instant browsing to your favorite sites, and provides for eight e-mail inboxes, including Hotmail, Yahoo!, Gmail and AOL. You could say that this one's got all the connections!

Pick your moto

Cell phones today have evolved into a reflection and extension of oneself. So it is but natural to be extremely picky when choosing the perfect companion. With the new Moto lineup, there's certainly a lot to be excited about, for it embraces a fresh sensibility and philosophy of the modern world—that substance and style are inseparable.

Okay, so you can't date them. But you can be certain of an amazing text life.

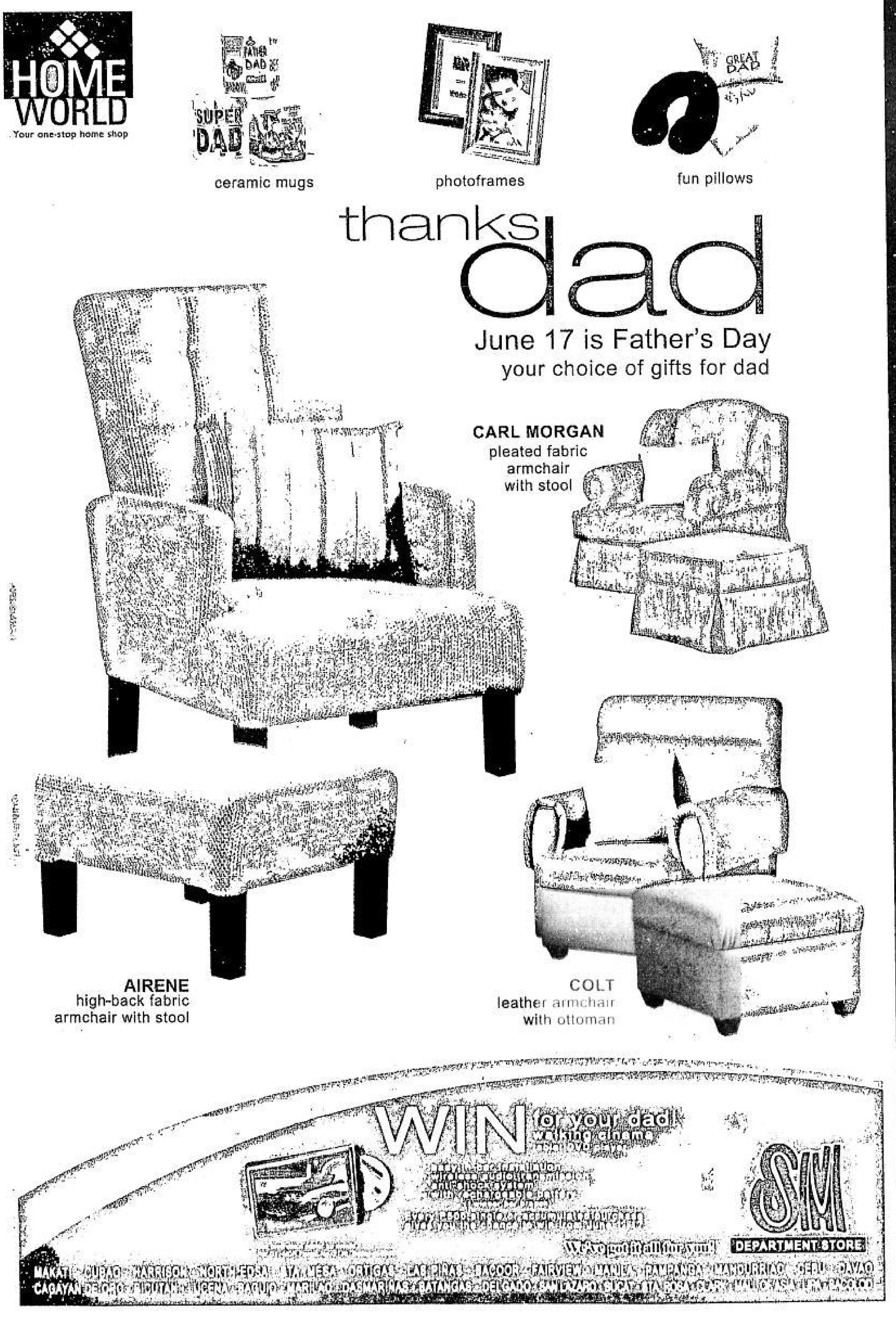
WE SEE THE FUTURE. Motorola's Nick Mann and Mari Litonjua show off their devices.

THIN-SPIRATION. The RAZR^2 is even sharper.

PRESS-ENT IN BANGKOK. Rorie Carlos, Tals Diaz and Alya Honasan road test the new models.

SHE CELLS. Moto femmebot in Thailand

SAWADEE KA! JR Isaac and Joyce Fernandez at welcome lunch.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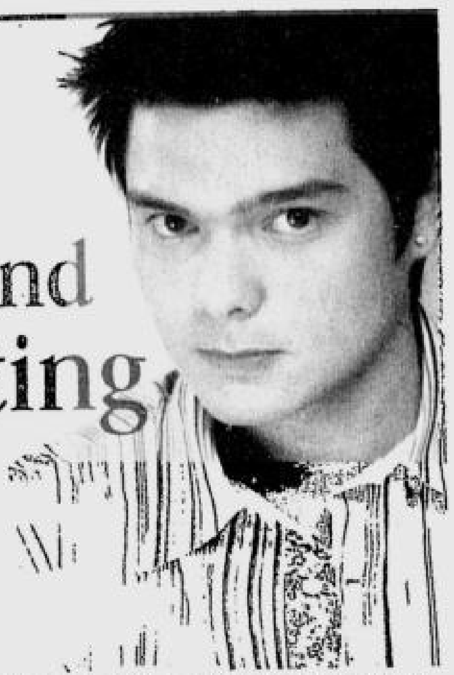
SATURDAY *Special*

Editor **Nestor U. Torre** ● *Assistant Editor* **Rito P. Asilo**

DIRECTOR'S CUT

Dingdong tries his hand at film directing



DANTES. His burning curiosity has paid off.

By Ronald G. Mangubat

SOME MONTHS AGO, ACTOR DINGDONG Dantes received a phone call from Becky Aguila asking him if he wanted to direct an episode of "Angels," a heartwarming trilogy about children.

Dantes, who's known for his roles in the *telefantasya* series, "Atlantika" and "Encantadia," was ecstatic! After all, the 26-year-old Ateneo graduate has always wanted to become a film director.

Unknown to some, Dantes has been directing on TV for quite sometime. In 2004, GMA-7 got him to direct episodes for the suspense-thriller series, "Kakaba Ka Ba?" and "Wag Kukurap." In "Encantadia" and "Atlantika," whenever director Mark Reyes was unavailable, he would ask Dantes to pinch-hit for him.

Visual storytelling

The whole experience, Dingdong says, opened his eyes to visual storytelling. "As a child," he recalls, "when I played with toys like He-Man and GI Joe, I would make up stories involving them. I have always been a film buff. When I started acting, I observed how my directors worked. I got curious and began asking questions about filmmaking."

Soon, the burning curiosity paid off when he met Agnes de Guzman, the writer of the episode ("Daddy's Angel") assigned to him. The challenge to translate the dramatic story of a father and son excited him.

"As soon as I read Agnes' script, *naglaro agad sa utak ko* how to adapt the material. I took the job seriously," he shared. The other two segments are directed by Gina Alajar and Mark Reyes.

When we interviewed Dingdong, we were one of the lucky few to view the rough cut of "Daddy's Angel," which stars Marvin Agustin, Jaclyn Jose and child actor, Nash Aguas. We weren't disappointed: In our book, the young director is one of the more promising megmen to watch out for.

DINGDONG/ F2

"I want my phone to be screamin' Christina!"

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Pleasant melodies in Stonefree's sophomore effort

By Noelani Torre

DE LOREAN IS THE NAME OF A sports car, otherwise known as the De Lorean DMC-12, made by the De Lorean Motor Co. from 1981-83. Among the car's unusual features are its unpainted stainless steel body, rear-mounted engine, and gull-wing doors.

If that description sounds familiar, it's because you've no doubt seen this car before—it was the time-traveling vehicle featured in "Back to the Future." A pop culture icon, it remains a cult favorite, especially among those who grew up watching the movie.

So, what does this have to do with local band Stonefree's sophomore album? Well, nothing much. The album is called "DeLorean," but it doesn't have anything to do with the car, or with its short-lived manufacturer, or with founder John De Lorean (who was once accused of drug-trafficking).

Music scene

If the title implies that, like the De Lorean, Stonefree will live on no matter what, then that wouldn't be quite right, either. It's too soon to make these kinds of statements: Despite having been in the music scene for more than a decade now, it's only recently that the boys have started to make themselves known to the general public.

Like "Hibiscus" (2005), the group's first album, "DeLorean" is standard pop-rock fare. Loud and quiet in all the right places, you won't find anything objectionable in its smooth, polished surface, or carefully thought-out lyrics. Whether or not you'd want to keep it on your playlist is a matter of taste.

For those still not familiar with the band, here's a brief lowdown: Stonefree is composed of vocalist Miro Valera, guitarist Benson Tanoja, drummer Relly Mangubat, and bassist Regie Mangubat (the last two are siblings). They started jamming together when they were still students at UP Diliman, and they've been playing together ever since.

Significant airtime

The band has been enjoying significant airtime in recent years, and most of us have no doubt heard their songs. The only problem is, with so many bands playing the same kind of music out there, you sometimes find it hard to distinguish them from the rest.

Though certainly not untalented, they nonetheless have to work harder to ensure that they can stand out from the crowd. It's not easy to come up with a signature sound and style, but if you don't have it, you're certainly not going to be a De Lorean.

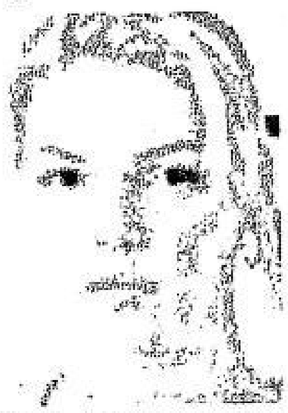
With pleasant melodies and some mildly rocking licks, the album is made up of 10 tracks written in both English and Tagalog. It mostly talks about love, though some tracks dabble in social commentary and spirituality.

STONEFREE. Need to come up with a more distinct sound and style.

Heigl likes playing happy characters

NEW YORK—Katherine Heigl says castmate Isaiah Washington apologized to her on the set of "Grey's Anatomy" after she publicly denounced his use of an antigay slur.

"Isaiah thanked me, which I didn't understand," the 28-year-old actress tells Entertainment Weekly. "He was almost grateful. I don't know Isaiah well, but he takes his work seriously—and he loves his character!"



HEIGL. "I'm a commercial-movie kind of gal!"

Epithet

Washington came under fire for using the epithet at the Golden Globe Awards in January while denying he had used it previously against fellow "Grey's" star T.R. Knight.

Heigl, who plays outspoken Dr. Izzie Stevens on the hit ABC medical drama, says she was "furious and frustrated" at the time, so she leapt to Knight's defense.

Contract negotiations

Heigl, who stars in the new Judd Apatow-directed comedy, "Knocked Up," speaks out in the interview, too, about her protracted contract negotiations with ABC.

The bottom line, she adds, is that she wants "the same respect they're showing the other actors." And she says she doesn't like the label that seems to go along with a woman who stands up for what she wants.

The actress, who calls "The Notebook" one of her "all-time favorite movies," says she'd rather laugh than get too serious when it comes to movie roles.

"I want to play happy people," she reveals. "I'm a commercial-movie kind of gal!" AP

Dingdong...

From page F1

Excerpts from our interview:

Did you have a hand in choosing the story and cast?

No, but I fell in love with the story the first time I read it, and I didn't encounter any problem with the cast. The episode assigned to me tells the story of a little boy and his relationship with his father, who just got out of prison. The material is highly dramatic, but I didn't want it to be too mushy. To tell its story, I used a man's point of view.

What was the most difficult scene to shoot?

The scene where Marvin's character had to hurt the boy physically. The script required three sequences, but *tinuhog ko sya* in a single sequence. We planned the whole thing—from blocking to lighting—and I used a hand-held camera. We rehearsed four times before we did the actual take.

Wasn't it difficult to direct Jaclyn Jose?

It was intimidating at first, but *Tita* Jane (Jaclyn) was supportive and understanding. There were scenes where I asked her to tone down her anger because I didn't want her character to be too furious.

What message do you want to impart?

My episode tells an inspiring story about forgiveness: It's not easy to forgive, but understanding is essential to healing.

Revelation

Child star Nash Aguas is a revelation here. How did you coach him?

Nash is really the episode's angel. I didn't do much coaching, *kasi alam nya kung ano'ng gagawin nya.* He's intelligent and sensitive.

Who are your mentors?

Peque Gallaga, Dominic Zapata, Gil Tejada, Ruel Bayani, Joel Lamangan, Joey Reyes, and Mark Reyes—I learned a lot from them!

Have you always been a film buff? What was the last nice film you saw?

Yes. I get a different kind of high when I watch movies like "The Prestige."

Do you want to direct and act in your own movie?

In due time.

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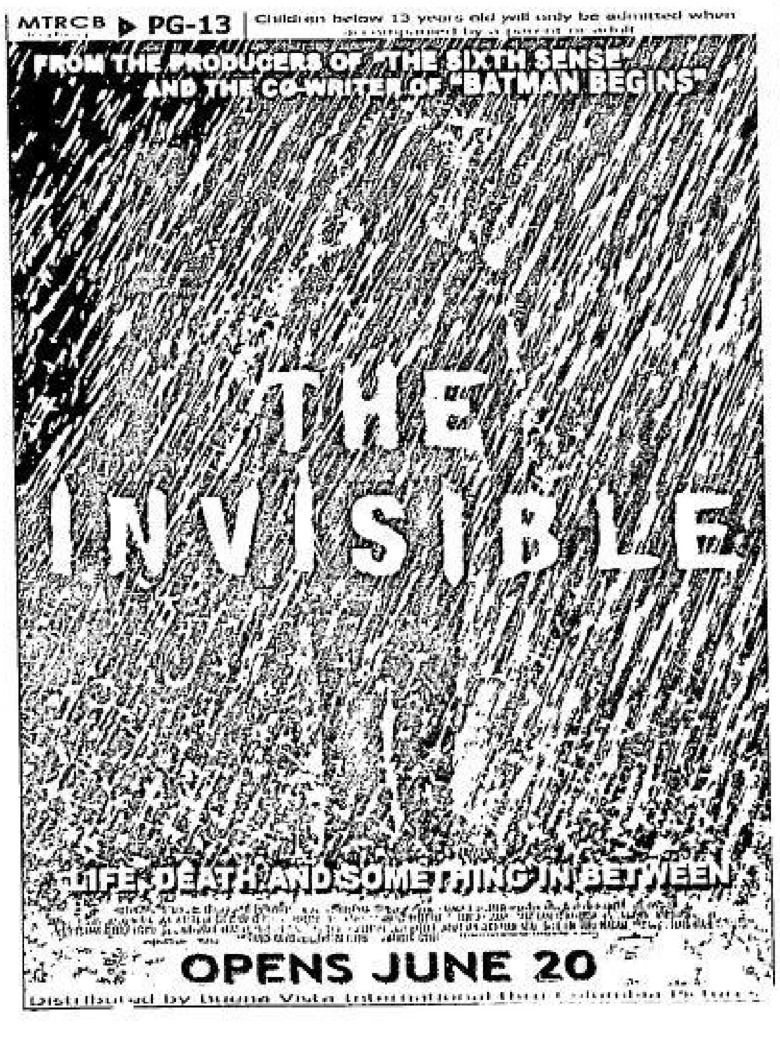

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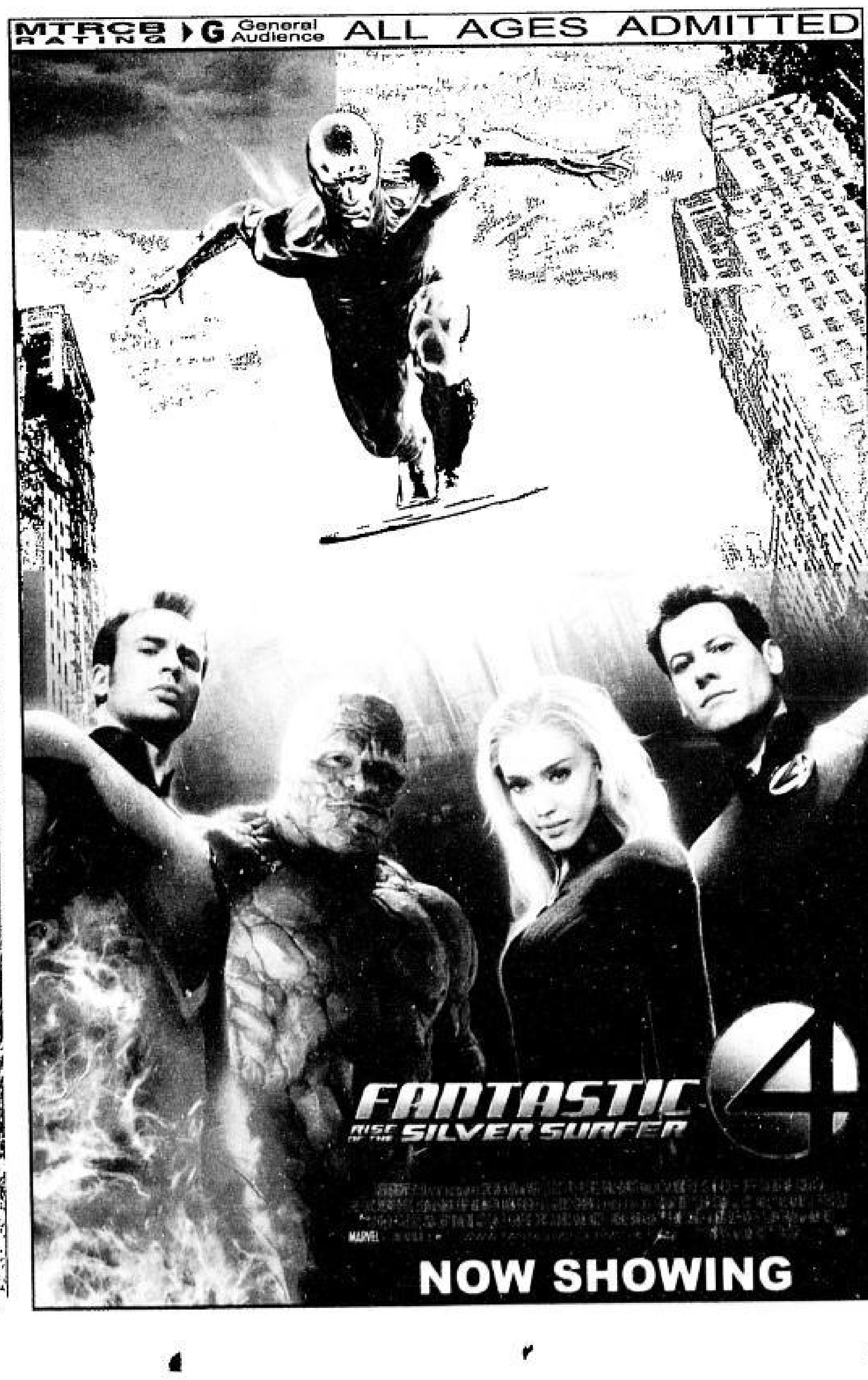

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LOREN. "Determination and stubborness are what make a star."

Stardom isn't easy *for* Sophia Loren

SYDNEY—SHE MAY HAVE BEEN blessed with legendary beauty and curves, but screen siren Sophia Loren says determination and stubbornness are what make a star.

"It's not easy to become a star," the glamorous 72-year-old actress told a press conference recently. "You have to be very determined and stubborn. You have to know what you want. Think every hour of the day: 'I want to be a star!'"

Pandemonium

Loren, dressed immaculately in a leopard-printed pantsuit, sparked pandemonium among 30 assembled photographers when she appeared at a press conference ahead of the launch of the inaugural Italian-Australian Film Festival.

The elegant grandmother of two said a film career demanded sacrifices, such as spending time away from your family. "But, if this is what you want, you have to be passionate, otherwise you will *never* reach anything, because it's a hard road to travel on!," she added. "But, when you get there—it's the most beautiful thing in the world!"

Most beautiful day

Loren said winning an Oscar (for "Two Women" in 1960) was "the most beautiful day of my life!" But, the Neapolitan celebrity, who had starred with the likes of Frank Sinatra, Marcello Mastroianni, and Paul Newman, broke down when she talked about her husband of 50 years, Carlo Ponti, who died in January this year.

Loren said it meant so much to her that, when she was awarded an honorary Oscar in 1990 for her contributions to cinema, "my husband and children were there!" *AFP*

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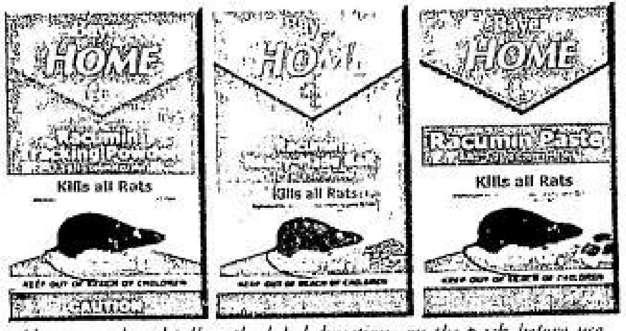

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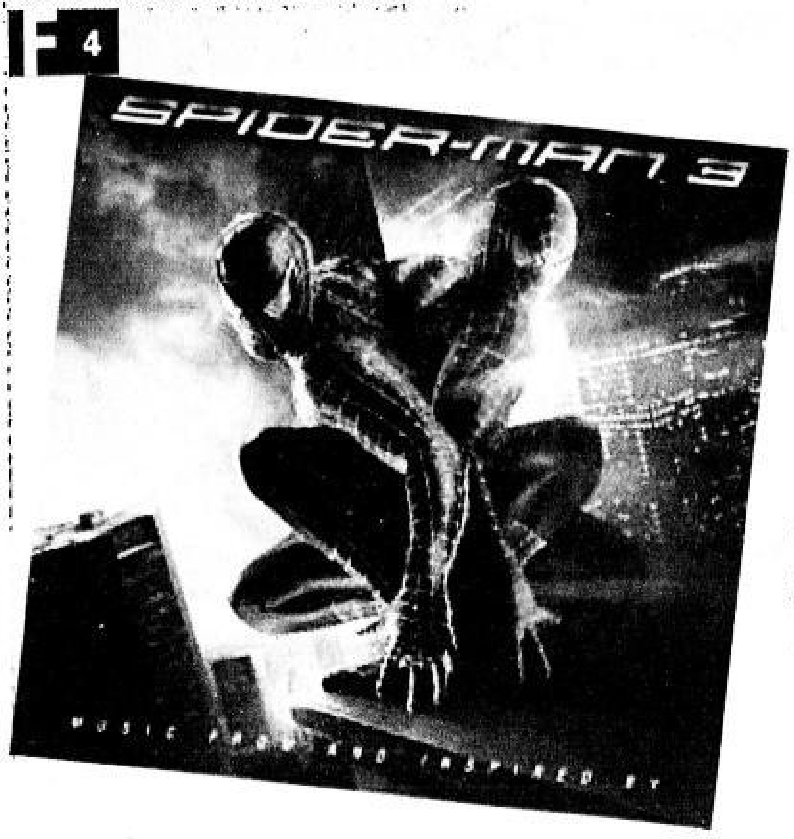

SPIDER-MAN 3
MUSIC FROM AND INSPIRED BY

THE COMPILATION'S songs explore and expose the darker places of a person's soul.

More misses than hits in 'Spider-Man 3' soundtrack

By Noelani Torre

"THE SUPREME BEING TEACHES SPIDER-Man How To Be In Love" is arguably the best song title in the soundtrack album, "Spider-man Music From and Inspired By." The title alone will tell you that the song comes from Oklahoma's most left-of-center band, The Flaming Lips.

Majority of the compilation's tracks also come from the same place—left-of-center, that is, not Oklahoma—to jibe with the movie's theme of exploring and exposing the darker places of a person's soul. Interestingly enough, all except one of the 16 songs are brand new.

That's not usual practice for nonmusical soundtracks, so it gives the whole package more credibility—that it *wasn't* produced to merely milk more money from a blockbuster.

Indie scene

The choice of featured talents is also unusual. Most artists are from the indie scene—albeit some of them are quite well-known already—with the singular exception of Chubby Checker, whose upbeat "The Twist" inexplicably pops up in the middle of all the darkness.

Like the movie, the soundtrack for "Spider-Man 3" takes itself just a tad too seriously, and is overburdened by too much plaintive emo moaning.

But, also like the movie, it somehow manages to redeem itself. All that dark introspection is leavened by surprising bits of whimsy, crunchy numbers, and rays of sunshine.

Contributors

Aside from The Flaming Lips, the other more well-known contributors are Snow Patrol, The Killers, Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Wolfmother, The Walkmen, and Jet. Lesser-known but equally smart artists like the Beatsteaks, Black Mountain, Simon Dawes, Rogue Wave, Sounds Under Radio, The WYO's, and The Oohlas round out the list.

Deserving special mention is Coconut Records—a group that includes actor Jason Schwartzman, with Kirsten Dunst on background vocals. Coconut Records' gentle and cheerily idiosyncratic "Summer Day" is one of the standout tracks here.

Earlier singles

The opening number, "Signal Fire" from Snow Patrol, despite coming on like a future hit, sounds too much like Coldplay. The next track, "Move Away" from The Killers, is better and meatier, though not really the equal of their earlier singles like "Mr. Brightside."

Wolfmother's "Pleased to Meet You" sounds even crunchier—and like a throwback to the arena rock era. "The Supreme Being Teaches Spider-Man To Be In Love" is as psychedelic as The Flaming Lips can make it, though curiously lacking their trademark oomph.

There are more misses than hits in this collection—but it makes for interesting listening, nonetheless.

Radio on TV is a strange media hybrid

By Behn Cervantes

IMAGINE MY SHOCK WHILE SURFING the tube to come upon a televised radio show. Radio on TV—just what is it exactly? Whatever it is, it's really not much of either. To begin with, radio is an entirely different medium. The demands are different, and so are the approaches. Their strengths are disparate.

Radio is largely dependent on the aural qualities of the communicator. Sadly, however, many of our radio announcers procure lengthy air time, so they end up just yakking away for hours, "dedicating" music and making small talk as they comment about anything and everything.

As a rule, announcers attempt to be socially relevant, so they interview politicos, who make them feel important by answering all their questions. The politicians make it a point to relate to anchors on a first-name basis, as if they were the best of friends, thus giving these talkative announcers a feeling of self-importance.

Omnipresent camera

As I watched the televised radio show, I noted that the radio personalities weren't just concentrating on their vocal communication skills, they were now "performing," because of the omnipresent camera.

After all, television is an audio-visual medium that emphasizes the latter. Therefore, while modulating their voices, these radio personalities are now concerned with the way they look! In effect, they "act" even as they pretend they're not conscious of the camera!

Why are these two forms of broadcast media made to blend? This strange media hybrid just doesn't work: What you get merely appears to be sloppy television.

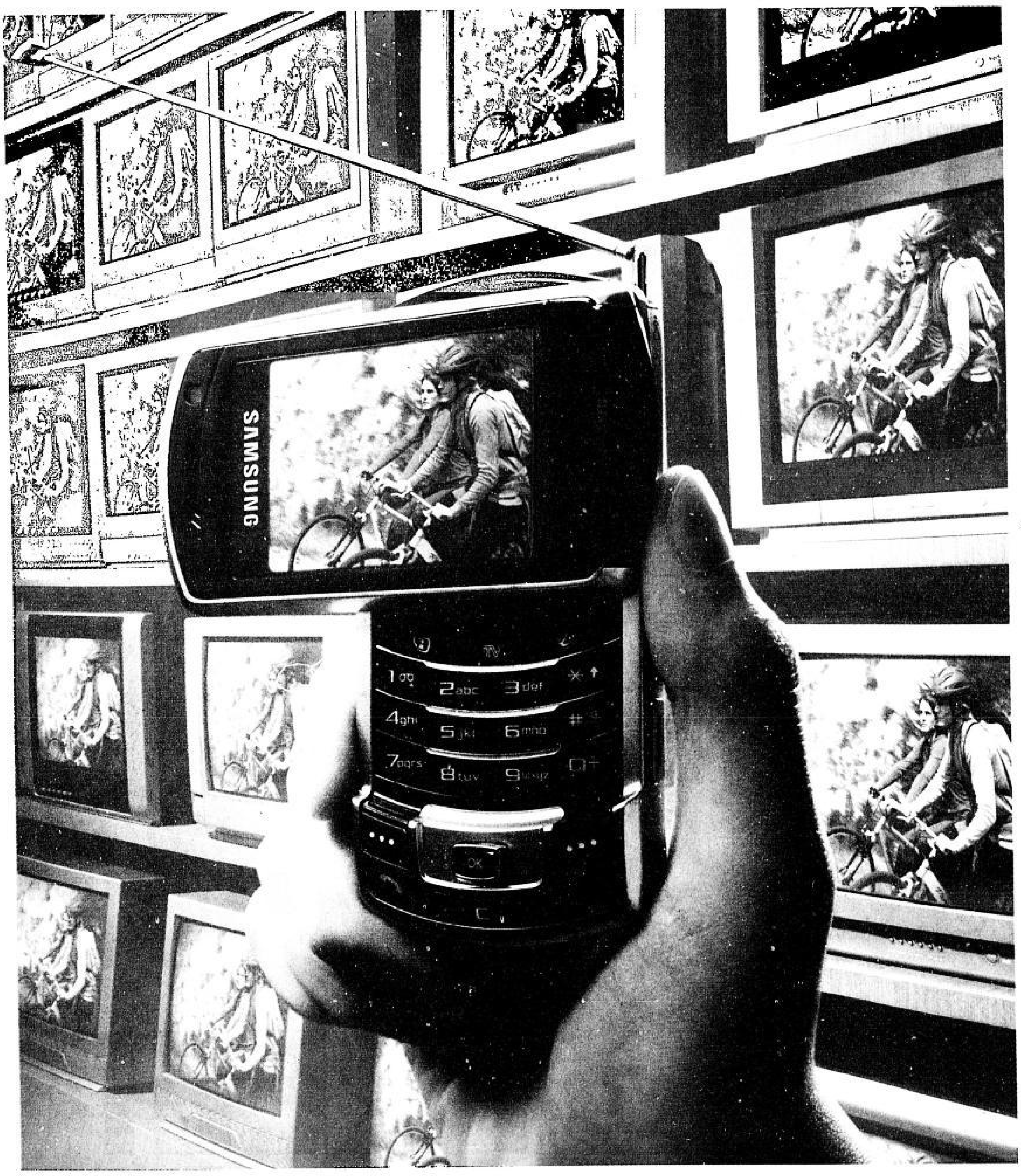
Strength

Radio announcers are casually dressed, because it doesn't matter much what they wear when they're "on air." On television, however, what you wear and how you look matter. A radio personality's strength relies largely on vocal ability, so he is not necessarily up to the visual standards of television. Thus, his physical attributes may be below his listeners' expectations.

As a result, you lose the magic of the "great voice" once the physical appearance of its owner is exposed on television. Therefore, one medium can negate the other. So, the main reason I can think of for this merging of disparate media is the extra income in commercial revenues.

Commercial breaks

But, what's next? Do we expect those televised radio shows to have commercial breaks that are also audio-visual in form, and thus more profitable than the usual radio ad? This strange media concoction will only benefit the station commercially, if that is indeed its long-term intention. It's difficult to see how this practice can enrich the broadcast media.



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RUFFA-YILMAZ-ANNABELLE IMBROGLIO

Tempest in a TV teapot

GUTIERREZ AND BEKTAS. The warring duo's marital contretemps have become local television's hottest "reality telenovela" show.

By Nestor U. Torre

FROM WEEK TO WEEK, SOMEtimes even from day to day, we have of late been assaulted by fresh inputs, revelations, and retorts on local TV's hottest "reality telenovela" show: The Ruffa-Yilmaz marital imbroglio.

The three-way tirades (by Ruffa, her mother Annabelle, and Yilmaz) have come so fast and furious that we end up feeling they're telling us much more than we need or want to know! And, all the time at the back of our minds is the thought: "What strings are being pulled this time—and why?"

Battered wife

Ruffa started it all last month when she broke down on TV and hinted at being a battered wife. Her mother pretty much confirmed the suspicion on another program.

That was disturbing, but also par for the course, since Ruffa and Annabelle are show biz denizens who are used to opening up their lives to the public—in the name of "celebrity transparency" or "star-fan empathy."

But "businessman" Yilmaz threw us for a loop when, out of the blue, he gave them a dose of their own medicine by also pouring out his own feelings on TV about the much-publicized separation!

RAMA. Completes the ongoing controversial, three-way tirades.

Confoundingly, his tone changed with every declaration. At first, he was contrite—then threatening—then, apologetic once more—etc. Tit for tat, Ruffa followed suit, until the heated exchange became *such* a drag.

Then, things really started heating up when it was revealed that Ruffa may have married someone else in Las Vegas years before she and Yilmaz had pledged their troth. This really stung Yilmaz where it hurt, prompting him to write Ruffa off from his life, supposedly for keeps.

Candor

Similarly stung, Ruffa hemmed and hawed but eventually admitted to the first marriage. Viewers appreciated her candor—but not her explanation: "I was young and foolish then." Now, *that* was a bad shot. You can't pooh-pooh a marriage just like that and hope to get away with it.

More: Now that Yilmaz had turned ornery, Ruffa went beyond hinting, and declared that she was *indeed* a battered wife. She even provided shocking details about how she had been tormented by her husband.

Would Yilmaz respond in kind? What fresh barrage of accusations against Ruffa could he now come up with to match or even top her latest broadsides? The mind boggled at the thought, and the viewer cried out: "Enough!"

Why do celebrities feel that they have the right to assault the viewing public with their personal low blows and dirty laundry? Because the public desperately wants to know.

Negative effect

But the buck doesn't stop there quite so conveniently. Who can quantify the negative effect that the ongoing Ruffa-Yilmaz TV tempest is having on young viewers, who are being forced to witness a marriage breaking up so viciously, and with such mutual scorn?

How would this affect of distort their own concept of marriage and love? How, indeed.

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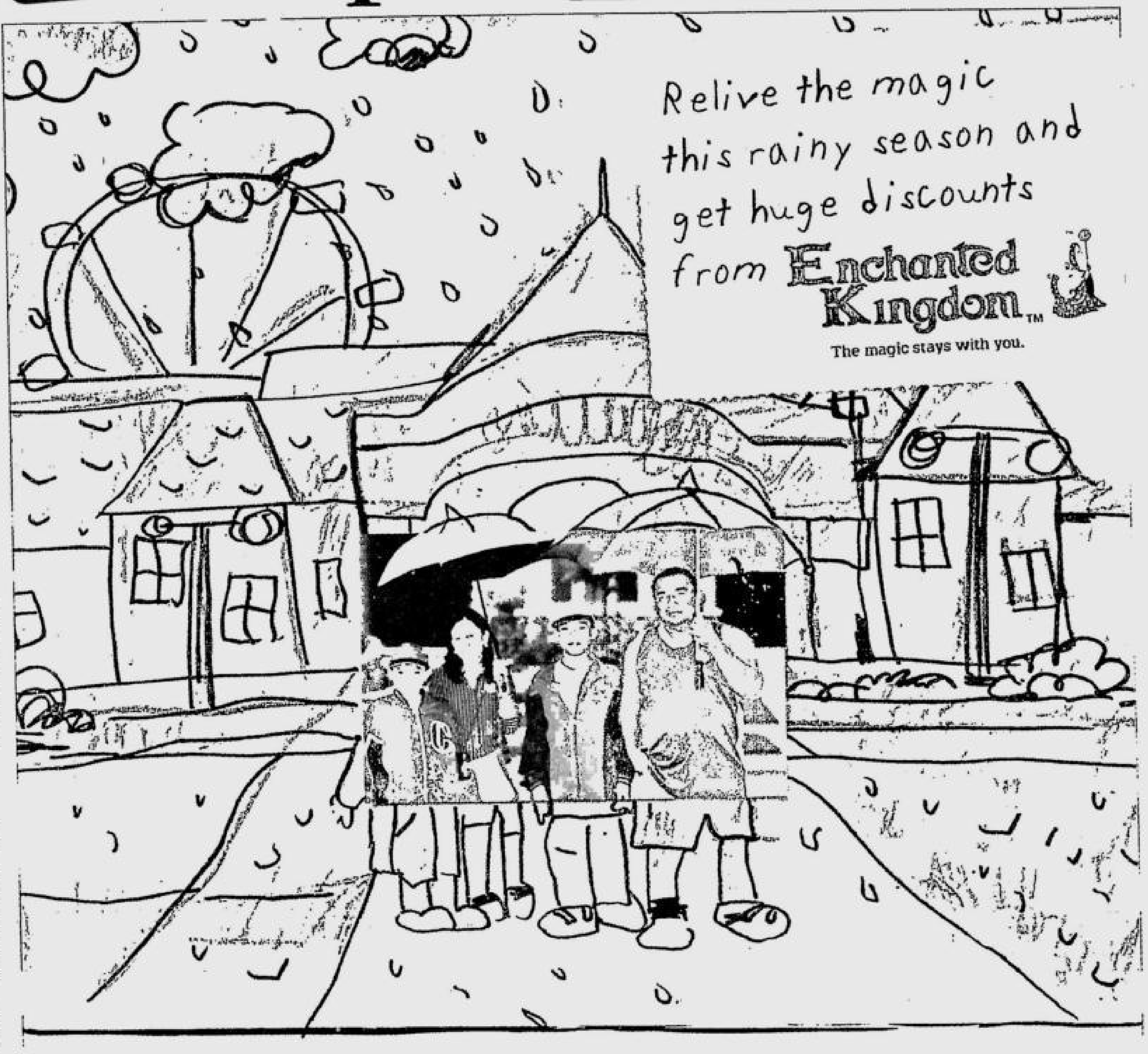

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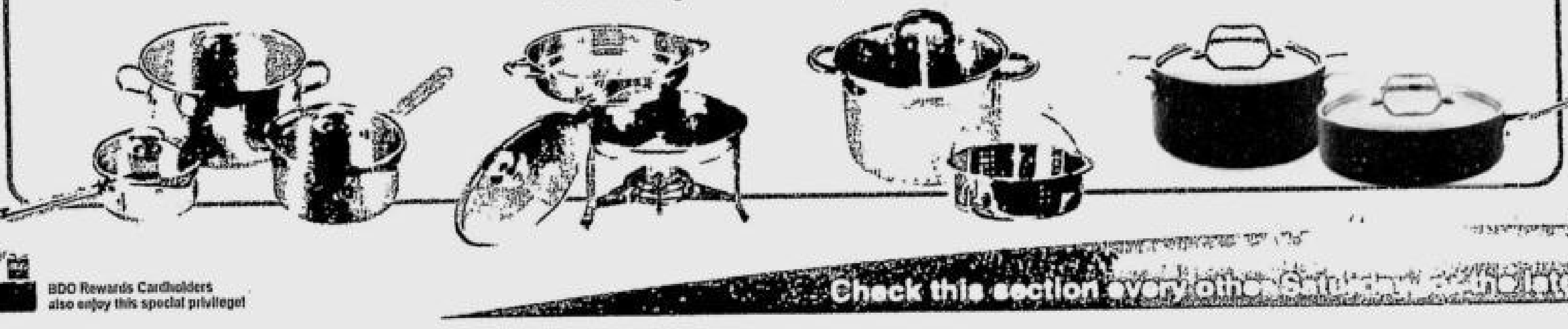

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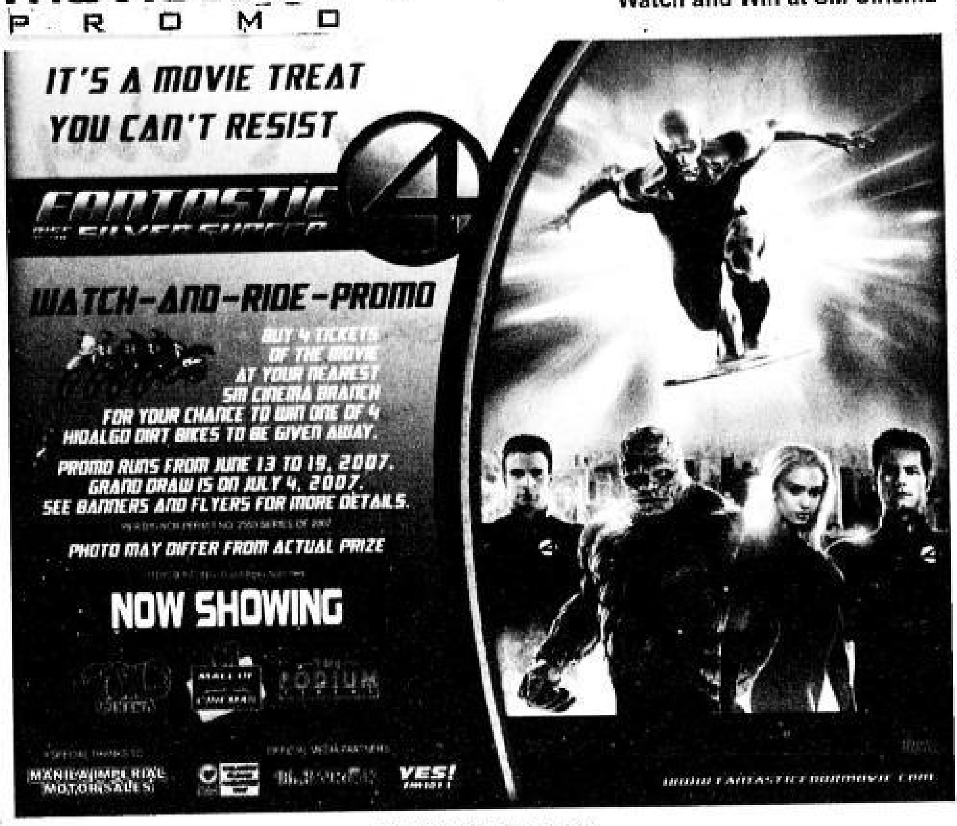
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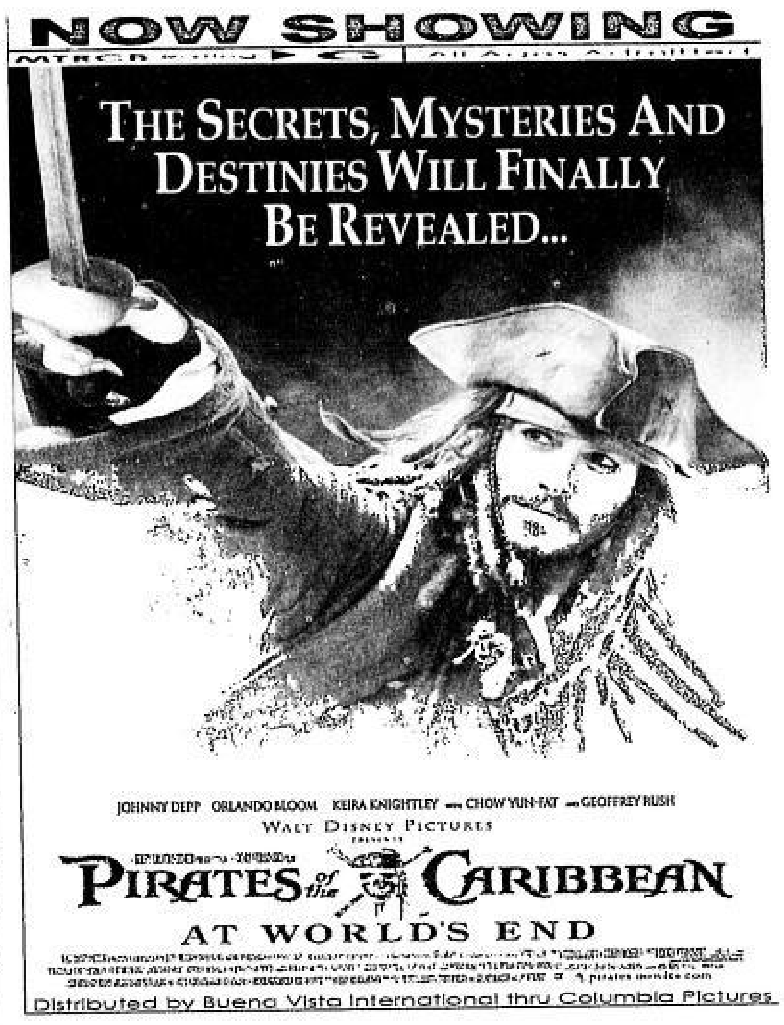
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Le Petit Lieutenant 3:30 pm
March of the Penguins 6:00 pm
Brodeuses 8:30 pm

June 10 (Sunday)
March Of the Penguins 1:00 pm
Not Here to be Loved 3:30 pm
Perfume 6:00 pm
The Ax 9:00 pm

June 11 (Monday)
Brodeuses 1:00 pm
Not Here to be Loved 3:30 pm
The Ax 6:00 pm
March of the Penguins 8:30 pm

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Kaleido 3:30 pm
Masahista 6:00 pm
Masahista 8:30 pm

June 13 (Wednesday)
The Ax 1:00 pm
Gamblers 3.30 pm
Brodeuses 6:00 pm
Arthur and the Invisibles 8:30 pm

June 14 (Thursday)
March of the Penguins 1:00 pm
The Ax 3:30 pm
Gamblers 6:00 pm
Fair Play 8:30 pm

June 15 (Friday)
Not Here to be Loved 1:00 pm
Brodeuses 3:30 pm
Arthur and the Invisibles 6:00 pm
Perfume 8:30 pm

June 16 (Saturday)
The Ax 1:00 pm
Perfume 3:30 pm
Fair Play 6:30 pm
Gamblers 8:30 pm

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Not Here to be Loved 6:00 pm
March of the Penguins 8:30 pm

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"FAITH BEGINS."
Ushers in a new phase for the young songstress.

Faith Cuneta comes into her own

By Rito P. Asilo

IT'S NOT THAT EASY BEING FAITH CUNETA. Surely, the familiar surname draws instant public recall. But, things can occasionally get harsh when observers start comparing her to local Tinseltown's well-loved mega-royalty—Sharon Cuneta, who else?—who has been reigning for more than three decades now: It's easy to pale in comparison.

Faith is the megastar's niece—her grandfather and the late Mayor Pablo Cuneta were brothers. However, in the past couple of years, and without much fanfare, this Cuneta has thrived on her own in her chosen artistic niche.

Her single, "Pag-ibig Ko'y Pansinin"—the love theme from the telenovela, "Stairway to Heaven"—became a hit, followed shortly by her version of "Pangarap na Bituin" (originally the theme song of Sharon's 1984 dramatic blockbuster, "Bukas, Luluhod ang Mga Tala"), for another Korean series, "Jewel in the Palace." Curiously, though, she has been confined to singing the theme songs of those imported TV serials—six of them, so far!

Testament

With the release of her latest album, "Faith Begins—The Live Album," the youthful singer comes into her own and proves that she can also shine beyond recording telenovela music. The 18-track collection, it turns out, is a testament to Faith's talent.

The album includes an impressive array of diverse songs—the '60s standard, "Sealed with a Kiss"; the show tune, "If Ever I Would Leave You" (from "Camelot"); Toni Braxton's 1997 hit, "Unbreak My Heart," and Bachelor Girl's 1998 debut hit, "Buses and Trains."

The repertoire begins with a finger-snapping rendition of "L-O-V-E." Some songs are accompanied by dressed-down piano arrangements—like her remake of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "No Other Love" (from the 1953 Broadway musical, "Me and Juliet"), a soothing musical balm to the senses.

Bittersweet

Faith's no-frills singing style showcases a sweet, lyrical, chest-placed soprano that's best utilized in tracks like "This Girl's in Love With You," "Suddenly It's Magic," "If," and the bittersweet "I'll Be Seeing You," a 69-year-old Broadway tune from composer Sammy Fain, the man behind the classics, "Secret Love" and "Love Is A Many Splendored Thing."

Surprisingly, the album doesn't have *"birit"* numbers. Occasionally, however, she runs into a snag musically when she doesn't quite hit the exact notes ("Suddenly It's Magic").

The vocal experiments in this live recording succeed in songs like "One in a Million," in which Faith dabbles in transpositional excursions—a heady artistic experiment that strips the song of its cliché, Karaoke quality. Faith's unplugged-sounding cover of Richard Carpenter's "Something in Your Eyes" (originally sung by Dusty Springfield) is another treat.

However, the collection also features two lackluster duets: "If Ever I Would Leave You" (with Arthur Manuntag) and "Unbreak My Heart" (with Mark Bautista, who counterpoints Faith's English words with his Italian lyrics). The voices may be impressive individually, but their fusion results in an odd-sounding, incoherent blend that doesn't quite work on disc.

Insightful version

Surprisingly notable is Cuneta's insightful version of "Buses and Trains," a daughter's reflective obloquy about falling in love and failing at it: "Hey, mom, why didn't you tell me? Why didn't you teach me a thing or two? You just let me go out into the world. You never thought to share what you knew...I kept falling in love...Crashed my car, gone insane...And it felt so good I want to do it again..."

When you hear the breezy vocal hooks of Faith's version of Swing Out Sister's "Am I The Same Girl?," you realize that this Cuneta has truly worked hard to earn and deserve her perceived sense of entitlement—way beyond the musical realm of Korean *telenovelas*!

CUNETA. Breezy vocal hooks.

No relief from some comics

From page G4

At first this was what happened. Little by little, however, it looks like she's been dragged down by current industry attitudes and practices. So, by the time we saw her latest film outing, "Paano Kita Iibigin?," Eugene's performance was as slapstick and in-your-face as Pokwang's zaniest portrayals.

This is a pity, but it also shows how powerfully persuasive industry practices can be. Talents who want to have a lot of assignments end up giving producers and directors what they want, which usually is loud, livid "comedy."

We understand why Eugene has gone the way of all flash-in-the-pans, but we wish that she would also make it a point to essay other less slapstick-y roles, to remind viewers what she's really capable of.

Acting gems

Our third comic, Lou Veloso, could provide Eugene—and Pokwang—a good example of how to do this. Lou has been in the biz for decades, and has done his share of outrageous characters—but, once in a while, he comes up with acting gems that redeem his thespic reputation.

In addition, Lou underscores his versatility, range and depth as a performer by taking on a great variety of roles. And he's a Manila city councilor and arts advocate, to boot!

We've also noted that Lou may be a "supporting" player most of the time, but he's very popular with audiences, especially the student crowd.

Sometime ago, he appeared in a musical on the campus stage, and the young viewers laughed at practically *every* comic line he delivered!

This shows that comedians can be both intelligent and popular, and we wish that Pokwang and Eugene can look beyond financial success and end up agreeing that *this* is the way to go!

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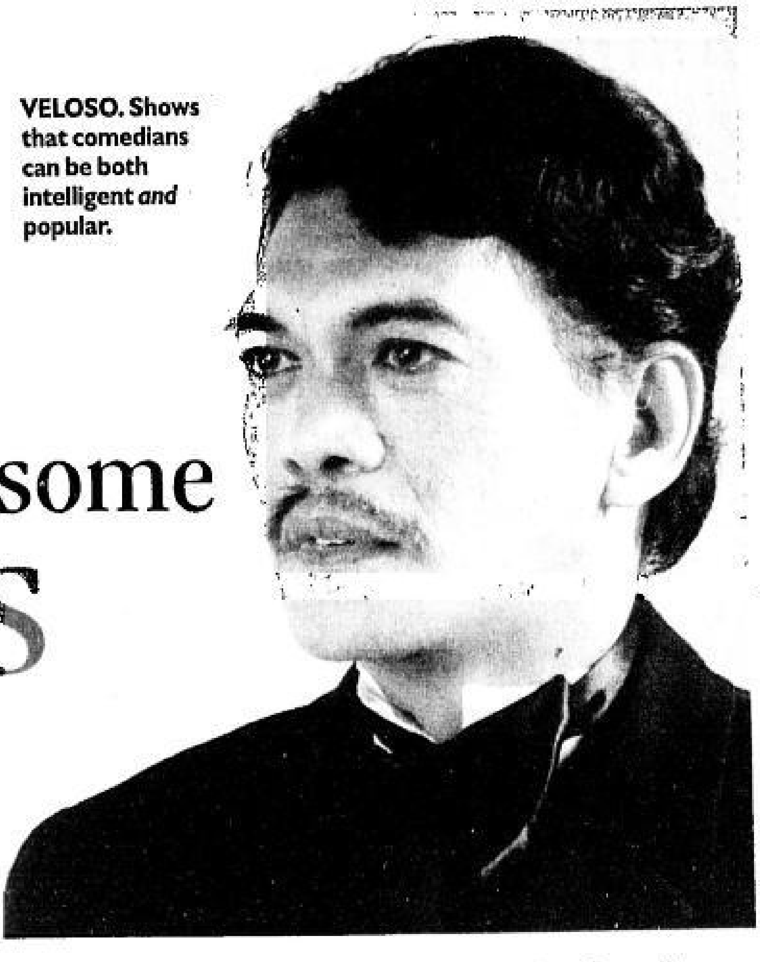


VELOSO. Shows that comedians can be both intelligent *and* popular.

No relief from some comics

By Nestor U. Torre

"COMIC RELIEF" IS A TRIED AND tested show biz technique to lighten the dark and heavy atmosphere of dramatic productions. Some movies do this with many comedians, while others are more selective, employing only one or a couple of hotshot comics to up a movie's humor ante.

Of late, three comedians have emerged as producers and directors' favorites in this regard. The first, Pokwang, usually plays support but occasionally essays bigger roles.

A look-alike of old-time comedienne, Aruray, Pokwang generates generally physical, in-your-face comedy, and gets additional laughs by going improbably sexy.

Some show biz insiders confide that, when producers can't afford to get Ai Ai delas Alas, they hire Pokwang, instead. We don't know if this is in fact the case, but if it's true, it indicates that the two female comics' styles and personas are similar.

Successful

We're glad that Pokwang is successful, but we wish that she would occasionally branch out into less physical and slapstick comedy. One ridiculous and strident performance after another can get to be a drag...

Our second "comic relief" comedian is Eugene Domingo. Unlike Pokwang, Eugene got her start in theater, and in fact is regarded as a good stage actress. One of the feathers on her cap is her successful one-person act in which she played a call center agent.

When Eugene moved to TV and film productions, we were happy for her because her less silly and more informed kind of comedy could raise the level of humor on the local mass-media scene.

NO RELIEF/ G3

Natural protection for infants

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

THE PHILIPPINE OFFICE OF THE WORLD Health Organization (WHO) is urging mothers to breastfeed their children in the first hour of life, and continue to do so for the next six months, without resorting to bottle-feeding.

In a statement to announce World Breastfeeding Week 2007 (from Aug. 1 to 7) WHO representative, Dr. Jean-Marc Olivé, remarks: "It's beyond dispute that breast milk is the safest, easiest, and least expensive way to protect a child's health in the vital first years of life. Breast milk offers a newborn baby the perfect mix of nutrients and antibodies. It is the child's first immunization."

Inappropriate feeding

Dr. Olivé said that each year, 16,000 Filipino children die before their fifth birthday because of inappropriate feeding practices. He shares: "Many of those deaths could have been avoided if more mothers breastfed their children!"

The theme for this year's World Breastfeeding Week, "Breastfeeding: The First Hour—Save One Million Babies!," highlights new evidence that if all women began breastfeeding within one hour after their child's birth, it would prevent one million neonatal deaths globally. The study, conducted in Ghana, Africa, showed that 41 percent of babies who die during the first two to 20 hours of their lives could have been saved by proper feeding practices. International Breastfeeding Day is on Aug. 1.

Dr. Olivé adds: "In the Philippines, baby-friendly hospitals are vital in promoting breastfeeding, and in helping ensure the quality of care for mothers. Strengthening and ensuring compliance with the 1986 Milk Code will help protect mothers from misleading information that affects their decision to initiate and maintain breastfeeding."

Regulation

The Milk Code affirms the need to promote breastfeeding. It recommends the appropriate regulation of marketing and distribution of breast milk substitutes.

More than 20 studies conducted around the world have shown that heavy economic losses are associated with the use of milk substitutes rather than breast milk. In the Philippines, it is estimated that about P1 billion in wages is lost annually in caring for sick babies, and P320 million is spent on funeral expenses.

OLIVÉ. "Breast milk offers the perfect mix of nutrients and antibodies."

In a country where many families struggle to make ends meet, at least P21.3 billion was spent on infant formula food last year.

E-mail mandynavasero@yahoo.com or, call 899-1767.

Legendary music label marks 50-year milestone

THE SOUND WAS NEVER exactly polished, but it had plenty of soul, and the Memphis sound created at Stax Records has found its own special place in the history of popular music.

Some of pop's most cherished recordings came out of the Stax studio, including Sam & Dave's "Soul Man," Otis Redding's "(Sitting On) The Dock of the Bay," and Isaac Hayes' Oscar-winning "Theme from Shaft."

Now, 50 years after a white country fiddle player started down the road that led him to open a recording studio in a predominantly black, inner-city neighborhood, the Stax label is trying to make a comeback.

REDDING. Exponent of the Memphis sound.

Critical time

"Stax was a great influence on music and culture. It was a biracial, creative home for artists in the South at a critical time in history," explained Roger Smith of the Concord Music Group, the label's current owner.

Blossoming in the 1960s and '70s, Stax owed its success as much to serendipity as to design, with artists like Redding, Sam & Dave, Eddie Floyd, Carla Thomas, and the Staple Singers.

"Things weren't necessarily written out. They were what we called 'head arranged.' We just talked about it or hummed what we wanted—and then, we played it," recalled guitarist Steve Cropper, a founding member Booker T. and the MGs, the Stax's house band. Stax artists created their own distinctive sound—rougher around the edges than the slicker style of the counterparts at Detroit's Motown—and reigned over the world of Southern soul.

New artists

Concord came out in March with "A 50th Anniversary Celebration," a two-CD anthology of Stax recordings. More original Stax releases are in the works, and Concord is signing new artists for the label, such as soul singers Angie Stone and Lalah Hathaway. Musician and singer Isaac Hayes, who, along with David Porter, was a leading Stax songwriter, is expected to return to the label.

Stax was founded by Jim Stewart, a fiddle player and former bank employee, and his sister, Estelle Axton in 1957. "Stax" is made up of the first two letters of their last names.

Soon, singers, musicians and songwriters came knocking on the studio's door. Most were black with rhythm and blues or gospel background, but Stax also attracted white musicians, like Cropper, a young guitarist with a taste for rock 'n' roll and country.

The music also attracted the attention of Atlantic Records, which had a few of their artists record there (including Wilson Pickett). It signed a deal to distribute Stax's music and, ultimately, take control of the label's master recordings.

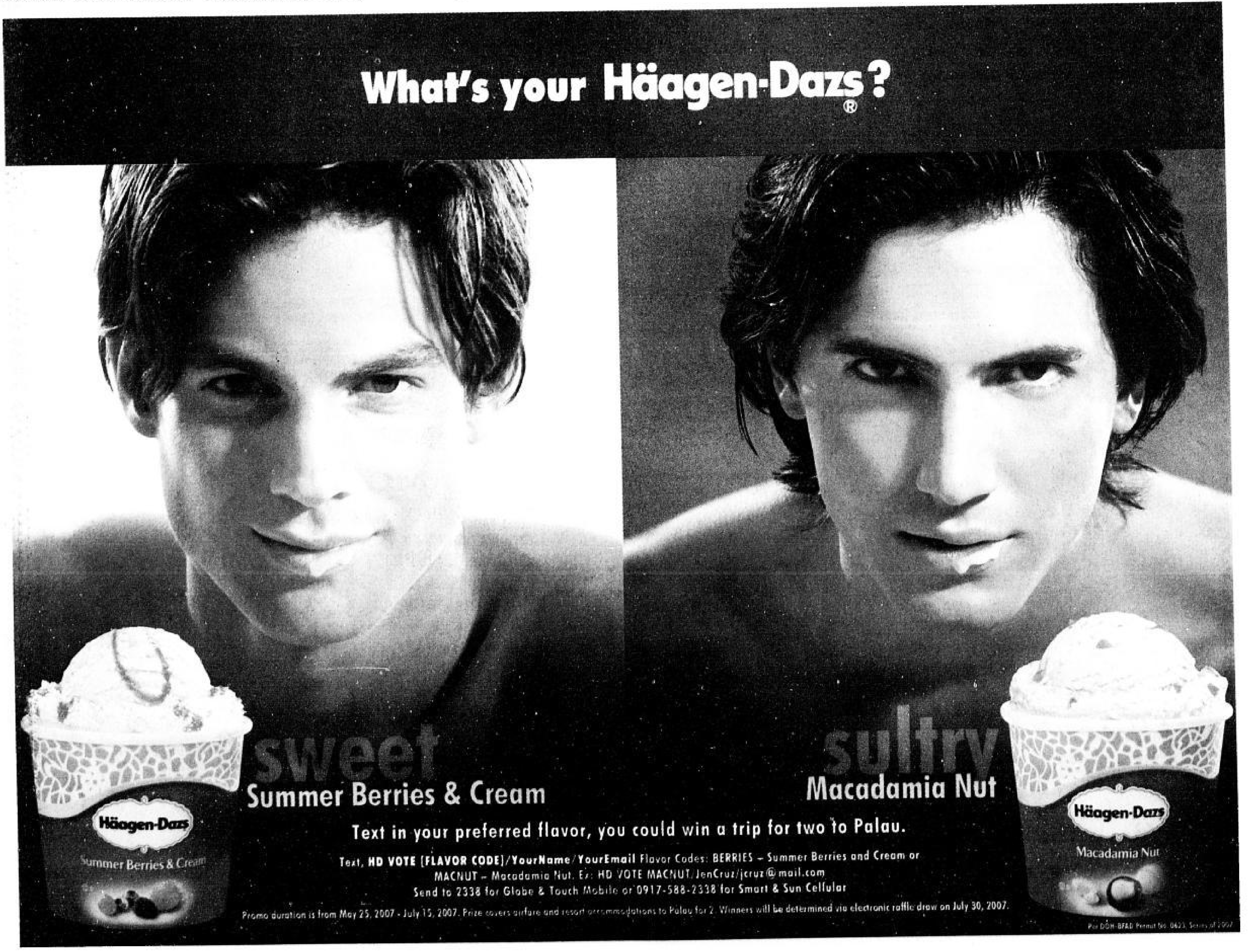
The whole Stax atmosphere rested on a make-it-up-as-you-go philosophy, said Deanie Parker, a founding member of the nonprofit Soulsville Foundation.

Popular hangout

"You were encouraged and given the freedom to be creative, and we took advantage of that freedom," reminisced Parker, a longtime Stax employee who helped run its record shop, Satellite Records.

Stax suffered an emotional and financial blow when Redding, the studio's fast-rising star, died in a plane crash in 1967, along with members of the Bar-Kays. The studio is now home to the 17,000-square-foot Stax museum.

The Memphis sound lives on. Smith of Concord said the company believes that new releases from the Stax catalog will stir young and old listeners alike. "Stax's catalogue is music that is timeless," he declared. "It transcends generations!" *AP*



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IN THIS ISSUE

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Mia Farrow and Angelina Jolie pay it forward

By Nestor U. Torre

STARS WHO ARE SO BLISSFULLY, EGOCENtrically wrapped up in their own beauty, importance and celebrity would do well to take a good, long break from their silly, shallow selves, and harken to the sterling example set by genuine luminaries like Mia Farrow.

Like Angelina Jolie, Farrow is a United Nations ambassador of goodwill with a particular interest in the ongoing genocide in Darfur, where the government has embarked on a cruel campaign against millions of defenseless civilians.

Different races

Come to think of it, Farrow could be Jolie's soul-mother! Before Jolie took to adopting children from all over the world, Farrow adopted *10* kids from different races.

Farrow shares that her humanitarian bent came from her father, John Farrow, whose parental mantra during her growing-up years was: "With knowledge comes responsibility."

Despite her early immersion in the self-absorbed world of show business, Farrow embraced that principle with a passion that surprised even herself.

So, after her acting career had ebbed and her marriage to *the* Frank Sinatra was just a bittersweet memory, Farrow focused on bringing up her 10 adopted kids—plus, her own three children! Now aged 32 to 12, they have made Mother Mia truly fulfilled, and oh so gratified!

> Stars would do well to take a good, long break from their silly, shallow selves and harken to the sterling examples set by Farrow and Jolie

Fact is, she doesn't even distinguish between her "real" and "adopted" children—they're simply her kids, OK? The experience has been unique, but it's also exhilaratingly right—it *feels* right. Because Farrow very wisely sees it as a small but meaningful affirmation of the awesome truth that is the Family of Man—beyond bloodlines and races, we are truly linked as children of one God.

Providing her own affirmation of this awesome truth, Farrow has gone beyond her "universal family" of 13 children and focused on the much larger reality of Darfur's millions of suffering refugees, especially on the many orphans left in the genocide's evil wake.

Like the 14,000 other volunteers in Darfur, Farrow's life was occasionally in danger (14 volunteers have been killed to date), but the mission was too important for danger to dissuade her.

By focusing the world's attention on the atrocities and humanitarian crisis in Darfur, Farrow has helped raise millions of dollars to feed and house victims of the genocide.

Even better, she has inspired Jolie and other celebrities to lay their own hearts and hands on the line, for world leaders to finally act to stop the ongoing holocaust. Happily, it now looks like they're starting to do exactly that—thanks to relentless "consciencitizers" like Farrow and Jolie.

FARROW (TOP LEFT) AND JOLIE. Humanitarian bent.

AP

Roy Iglesias finds his true calling

By Rica Arevalo

AT FIRST GLANCE, ROY IGLESIAS projects a "formal" façade. Initially, the noted screenwriter looks intimidating, but once you break the ice, he's capable of talking nonstop. When he was 18 years old, the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila graduate cowrote Eddie Romero's cinematic masterpiece, "Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon?"

He recalls: "Doing 'Ganito Kami Noon' was a wonderful experience! I was lucky I started with Romero. He shaped my formative years. We used to discuss our different ideological perspectives. He was a humanist, while I was an activist—and I'm proud to have acquired some of his humanistic beliefs."

However, the success of the project overwhelmed the young writer. Looking back, he shares: "I wanted to write more and explore, and I felt the pressure. I wanted my next project to succeed, so I became choosy. As a result, I ended up not doing any film for 10 years! But when you're building a career, you should be open to any project!"

Doors

His writing stint with Romero opened doors for him: It led him to Lino Brocka. He states: "I admired Lino's passion and his principles. *Nakikita sa kilos niya* how he understood the human condition. One time, while I was writing a screenplay for him, I visited him at home. He asked me if I already got my talent fee. *'Hindi pa e,'* I answered. He then went to the person who was in charge of the payment and banged the table—*nagalit sya!* Lino practiced what he preached!"

How was it working with Chito Roño? He replies: "Exciting *siyang katrabaho!* He can look at a scene in a different way. *Tapos, 'pag nag*-meet *ang perspectives nyo, ang ganda ng labas, nakakagulat! Masipag sya. Minsan, gagawa ako ng mahirap na eksena,* then he would tell me, *'Pinahihirapan mo naman ako, e,'* but he would do it just the same. *Gusto nyang nacha*-challenge *sya!*"

IGLESIAS. Feels more fulfilled as a Special Education teacher.

He calls Joel Lamangan "pro-writer." He explains: "*'Pag napagkasunduan nyo na ang* script, he won't change it anymore. If you're a new writer, it's good to work with someone like Joel. If you earn his respect *at nagkasundo kayo, ipaglalaban ka nya!*"

Literary background

He lights up when he talks about Mel Chionglo: "I like Mel's literary background. *Matalas sya sa mga detalye ng isang* scene or relationship. On the other hand, Maryo J. delos Reyes' biggest asset is his strong grasp of his movies' characters. It's very interesting to talk to him about that."

But screenwriting, Roy says, isn't really his true calling—he finds more fulfillment as a Special Education (SPED) teacher, being at the forefront of the Center for Alternative and Relevant Education Foundation Inc. (CARE).

Why the interest in special children? He beams: "I enjoy teaching them. The small things they achieve become big things for me, because of their limitations—we know how difficult it is for them to acquire information. Teaching them is a very fulfilling experience!"

He adds: "We are introducing a

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Global box-office numbers game needs new rule book

IN HOLLYWOOD, BOX-OFFICE records exist to be broken. Last month saw several records fall as Sony Pictures' "Spider-Man 3," and then Walt Disney's "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End" stormed the multiplex.

At $151.1 million, "Spider-Man 3" grabbed the title for biggest domestic opening weekend when it bowed in early May, snatching away the prize from last summer's "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest," which made $135.6 million. "At World's End" took the trophy for biggest four-day Memorial Day weekend with $139.8 million, rising above the $122.9 million scored last year by 20th Century Fox's "X-Men: The Last Stand."

The picture got murkier when Disney/Buena Vista claimed a six-day international record for "At World's End" with an opening of $251 million, outdistancing the six-day international total of $232 million registered by Sony's "Spider-Man" just several weeks earlier.

A Sony spokesperson insisted that "At World's End" had included returns from preview screenings in several territories, and pointing out "for the record" that "Spider-Man 3" amassed $256.7 million in its first seven days abroad. For its part, Disney insisted that the preview figures it rolled into its six-day total were relatively insignificant.

Debate

In many respects, the debate was academic. Both films are doing big business worldwide. "Spider-Man 3" has already become Sony's biggest worldwide grosser, and appears headed to hit $900 million worldwide. "At World's End" is aiming for the $1 billion mark, which would find it challenging "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest," which currently ranks as the No. 3 film of all time worldwide with $1:07 billion in its account.

The miniflap did open the door to a new era, in which the rules haven't yet been fully written. The statisticians who compare domestic openings have refined their comparisons—three-day weekends, four-day holiday weekends, etc. are all clearly delineated. But, the definition of worldwide day-and-date openings—with different countries debuting movies on different days of the week—has yet to be fully outlined.

The intense focus on worldwide openings also obscures how movies have been doing in subsequent weeks domestically, where the competition has been a lot tougher than it has been abroad. After five weekends in release, "Spider-Man 3" is running behind the domestic totals posted by the first two "Spider-Man" movies. After two weekends, "At World's End" is running well ahead of the first "Pirates" but behind the second one. Both films have had to contend with the fact that DreamWorks' "Shrek the Third" is also in the mix in terms of courting North American moviegoers.

"SPIDER-MAN 3." Biggest domestic opening weekend.

"AT WORLD'S END." Aiming for the $1 billion mark.

Sequels

Because all three mega-tentpoles have begun to lose steam domestically, the media has already begun to ask whether audiences are fed up with sequels. Well, if that were the case, none of the three would ever have opened to "monster" figures in the first place!

With "Ocean's Thirteen" scoring an estimated $37.1 million when it opened this past weekend, and the upcoming "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," a fifth in a series with an avid fan base, moviegoers are hardly turning a deaf ear to sequels.

Such saturation releases are probably losing some repeat business, though. To some extent, they are cannibalizing one another, particularly when such movies as "Spider-Man 3" and "At World's End" demand considerable time commitments. Shrewd entertainment consumers also know that the inevitable DVD will be arriving sooner rather than later.

Meanwhile, Disney's TV spots for "At World's End" this week trumpeted the fact that the movie was the No. 1 film in the world for the past two weekends. Moving beyond bragging rights, worldwide grosses have become the newest marketing tool. The message is: If it's a hit everywhere from here to Timbuktu, then you'd better not ignore it!

Reuters

Sarah Geronimo at Araneta Coliseum

MONTAGE

ON JULY 14, SARAH GERONIMO performs at the Araneta Coliseum in her first show as a young-adult performer, "Sarah in Motion." In the landmark concert, the teen princess blossoms into a more mature and effervescent star. On July 21, the sizzling show moves over to Expo Filipino, Pampanga.

After the concert, Sarah will release her new album, "Taking Flight," costar with Jericho Rosales in a TV soap, and topbill her launching movie with John Lloyd Cruz. Truly, Sarah is in motion!

Nickelodeon's grand preview party

Angel Locsin was hailed as this year's "Pinoy Wannabe" awardee at Nickelodeon's recent 20th Kids' Choice Awards Preview Party. The Aliw Theater was full of kids and other people who enjoyed the fun booths like the Kids' Choice Awards Hall of Fame, Photo Op, Sparkle Booth, and games like Nestlé Chuckie Ice Cream's Slime Dart, Red Ribbon's Blue Box of Clues and Papa Banana Ketchup's Go, Diego, Blow.

Kids went wild when SpongeBob SquarePants danced, and snippets of KCA 2007 in Los Angeles were shown. Toy Run winners Mikko Alfaro, Miggy Panganiban, and Seiah Yu each went on a Toy Kingdom shopping spree worth P120,000. And Dora the Explorer helped announce this year's Pinoy Wannabe winner, Angel.

Oprah on Hallmark Channel

Viewing treats for July lead off with "Oprah Primetime Specials" every Sunday at 8 p.m.: July 1, Oprah talks to the stars of "Wild Hogs." July 8, Sheryl Crow. July 15, Madonna. July 22, Al Gore on global warming. July 29, the cast of "Grey's Anatomy."

On July 21 from 1 to 5 p.m. "Nate's $10,000 Challenge" dares celebrity decorator, Nate Berkus, to help an Australian couple increase the market value of their home, among other decorating challenges. Oprah's talk show can also be seen weekdays at 1 p.m. and M-W at 10 p.m.

MERCADO AND GARCIA. Stars of Angel Locsin's first movie production.

'Angels'

At 4 p.m. June 18, Starmall Edsa hosts the promo tour of Angel Locsin's first movie production, "Angels." Stars Jennylyn Mercado, Patrick Garcia, Marvin Agustin, and Valerie Concepcion will meet and greet fans. "Angels" opens at Starmall Cinemas on June 20.

"Angels" is about an angel named Kerubina who is assigned to prove that love defies personality differences and social status. She engineers events for poor Bianang (Jennylyn) and rich Jude (Patrick), and they start falling n love in the most unexpected places and the most peculiar situations.

On National Geographic Channel

At 9 p.m. on June 24, NGC telecasts "In the Womb: Twins, Triplets and Quads." Utilizing groundbreaking technology, the two-part docu takes viewers into the extraordinary world of multiple births developing *in utero*.

Movies on TV

On HBO today at 10:15 a.m., "Spanglish." Tomorrow at 10:45 a.m., "The Lords of Discipline." June 18 at 10:15 a.m., "The Polar Express." June 19 at 8:30 a.m., "Chances Are." June 20 at 6 a.m., "Inside I'm Dancing." June 21 at 9 p.m., "Elizabethtown." June 22 at 7:45 a.m., "The Accidental Tourist."

On Cinemax today at 4:45 p.m., "Treasure Island." Tomorrow at 5 p.m., "Trading Places." June 18 at 9 p.m., "New Eden." June 19 at 6 p.m., "War and Peace." June 20 at 2:55 a.m., "Paris When It Sizzles." June 21 at 8:05 a.m., "Bonnie and Clyde." June 22 at 1:50 p.m., "Chameleon.""

GERONIMO. Landmark concert at the Big Dome.

DUP's 'Ang Pasyon ni Kristo'

For its 32nd season, Dulaang UP will stage "Ang Pasyon ni Kristo," which retells the Passion of Jesus Christ, from his baptism in River Jordan to his resurrection. Directed by Tony Mabesa, it stars Romnick Sarmenta as Jesus Christ and Stella Cañete as the Virgin Mary. Call BJ Borja at 926-1249 or 0919 216-0440.

SARMENTA. Plays Christ in Dulaang UP presentation.

Cesare at the Penguin

"An Act of Bad Faith," Cesare Syjuco's installation of his new literary hybrids, is on view at The Penguin Café Gallery, Remedios Circle, Malate, Manila until July 4. The installation is curated by Jean Marie Syjuco.

'Grizzly Man'

The critically acclaimed film, "Grizzly Man," documenting Timothy Treadwell's obsession with the grizzly bear, will premiere on Discovery Channel at 9 p.m. on June 25. Werner Herzog paints a complex portrait of passionate gizzly bear advocate Treadwell, who dies after being mauled by a grizzly in Alaska. Named best movie of the year by Time magazine's Richard Schickel, "Grizzly Man" also received the Sundance Film Festival's prestigious Alfred P. Sloane Feature Film Award.

ManoMano sale

The ManoMano Fair Trade Store of Safrudi (Social Action Foundation for Rural and Urban Developments Inc.) is celebrating its first anniversary this month with a big sale of its beautiful and unique Philippine handicrafts. The sale ends today.

Support ManoMano's fine handicrafts and fair trade initiatives by availing of its big anniversary sale at 2594 Lamayan st., Sta. Ana, Manila. Call 564-4169.

Dance tilt at The Brick Road

Amateur dance groups with four to seven members aged 15 and older are invited to the join The Brick Road's "Step Avenue Hip Hop Dance Competition." Dance to trance, hip-hop, or R&B and get the chance to win over P50,000 worth of cash prizes and gift certificates. Auditions for the elimination round will be held today at 7 p.m. Grand finals is on Aug. 4. Call 681-5401 loc. 109.

On ETC Channel

Wednesday at 10 p.m., "Style Her Famous" has Jay Emmanuel making "ordinary" women look like their favorite Hollywood stars. At 10:30 p.m., "Hotspot: The Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel." Thursday at 10 p.m., Cycle 7 of "America's Next Top Model."

"Starved" on Thursday at 8 p.m. is about four friends who are under therapy for different eating disorders. And "Try My Life" (starting Monday, June 25) shows what happens when parents and kids switch roles.

At San Mig Pub

Master magician Bill Ehlers will entertain diners with his mystifying tricks at San Mig Pub, Alabang Town Center, on Father's Day, tomorrow. Dads and the whole family can feast on the pub's weekend mongolian barbecue buffet, as well as old-time Spanish and Filipino favorites. Call 807-3595.

Rebels with a cause

Exciting young stars Margarita Levieva, Chris Marquette, and Alex O'Loughlin make up a formidable trio of villains who are behind the disappearance of Justin Chatwins character in the spooky murder chiller, "The Invisible." As Chatwin's character

SARAH/ H3

(CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT) CHATWIN, LEVIEVA, MARQUETTE, AND O'LOUGHLIN. Make up talented young cast of "The Invisible."

BANDERAS AND LOPEZ. Turn in gritty performances in Nava's relevant film.

Higher . . .

From page H4

Nava's Golden Bear-nominated drama, which follows the story of ambitious American reporter, Lauren Adrian (Jennifer Lopez), who heads off to the Mexican border town near El Paso, Texas to investigate the unsolved kidnap, rape, torture, and murder of hundreds of young female factory workers, which has been happening since 1993.

In Ciudad Juarez, women endure substandard labor conditions in American-owned assembly line factories called *malquiladoras*.

With the help of married former squeeze, local journalist Alfonso Diaz (Antonio Banderas), Lauren digs deep into the mysterious murders by working undercover as a factory hand in one of Juarez's sweat shops.

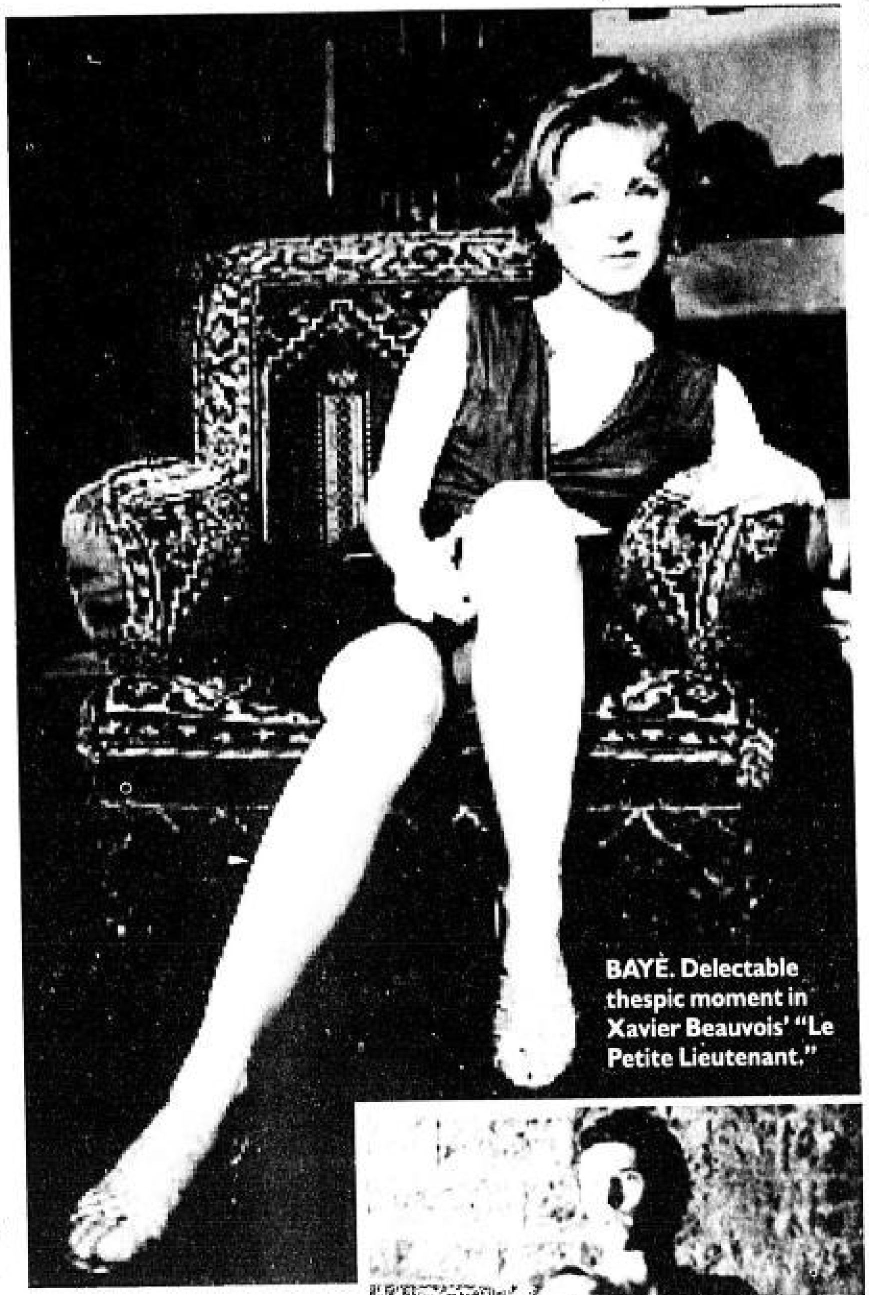
She is soon exposed to a flawed socio-political system that conveniently turns a blind eye on the crimes, while helpless young women cower in fear and suffer in silence!

Despite its noble intentions, Nava's film is bogged down by trite dialogue and a hectic script that only manages to clutter rather than clarify. Its impact, as a result, is considerably muted.

On the plus side, Lopez acquits herself well with an impassioned turn, while Banderas, Sonia Braga, and Juan Diego Botto (best remembered in Montxo Armendariz's stunning "Stories from the Kronen") lend the actress ample support. Sadly, Nava ("Selena") overworks the story's dramatic thread by delivering a whiney film full of black or white character stereotypes. As the film winds down to its cautionary finale, it takes on a tone that's more *telenovela* than social commentary,,

Current cinematic trends and styles at the French film fest

By Rito P. Asilo



BAYÈ. Delectable thespic moment in Xavier Beauvois' "Le Petite Lieutenant."

DYNAMIC AND COLORFUL CHARACTERS grace the cinematic lineup of the 12th French Film Festival: An emotionally passive bailiff who, upon his doctor's orders, takes tango lessons then meets an engaged school counselor ("Not Here to be Loved"); a despondent chemist, unemployed for two years, plots to eliminate five of his most probable job rivals ("The Ax"); a kindhearted crook roams a grimy Parisian garment business district to protect the belligerent brother of his ex-girlfriend ("Gamblers");

A grieving mother hires a grocery cashier, who keeps her pregnancy secret from everyone—including her family ("A Common Thread"); an orphan, who was born in a stinking fish market, grows up obsessed with his search for the "perfect scent" ("Perfume: The Story of a Murderer"); a keen rookie finds himself posted at the criminal division of Paris' police force, under the tutelage of a recovering alcoholic lady boss ("Le Petite Lieutenant").

Rich cross-section

The festival's current entries represent a rich cross-section of contemporary French cinema and some of Europe's best filmmakers, including Tom Tykwer ("Run Lola Run"), Constantin Costa-Gavras ("Z," "Amen"), and Xavier Beauvois ("Don't Forget You're Going to Die," "Ponette").

It's interesting to note that the movies on view aren't just art-house staples—some of them are well-made "commercial" features. The lineup gives us a better understanding of what French auteurs have been screening for their moviegoers.

In fact, many of them are new releases: Stephane Brize's "Not Here to Be Loved," for instance, just opened last June 8 in London's commercial cineplexes, while *Pinoy* film enthusiasts watched it at Shangri-La—for free!

Consequently, the lineup allows a closer look at European cinema's current narrative styles and trends. Consider a death scene in Brize's film: As a grieving son stares at his father's lifeless body, no maudlin musical orchestration swells in the background, and there are no protracted, tearful goodbyes.

Eventual fate

Also notable is the fact that there are no cop-out, spoon-fed endings. These films don't resort to convenient six-months-later epilogues that allow the otherwise distraught characters to bask in their happy, fairy tale endings—and we're not just referring to "Paano Kita Iibigin?"—that explain the eventual fate of every major character. Take the final acts of "Not Here," "Gamblers," "The Ax," and "Le Petite Lieutenant." Viewers are left to formulate their own conclusion.

The festival pays homage to Luc Besson by fielding "Arthur and the Invisibles," about a 10-year-old boy trying to stop the demolition of his grandfather's old house. The filmmaker behind "Le Femme Nikita" and "The Fifth Element," announced recently that "Arthur" would be his last film. A more appropriate choice would have been "Angela," Besson's black and white rom-com.

"PERFUME." Initially described by observers as "almost impossible to adapt" to the big screen.

Other treats at the festival: Eleonor Faucher's visually lush "A Common Thread," and Tykwer's intriguing "Perfume," based on Patrick Suskind's novel, which was initially described as "almost impossible to adapt" to the big screen.

Acting bravado

If Beauvois' "Le Petite Lieutenant" is on your watchlist, here's a piece of advice: Watch out for the last scene, for Cesar Awards' best actress winner, Nathalie Baye's delectable moment of acting bravado—no histrionics, and hardly any dialogue!

Luc Jacquet's Oscar-winning "March of the Penguins" is also in the lineup. However, it would have been great to have Francois Ozon's "Time to Leave," about a young gay photographer dying of cancer, and "An Old Mistress," Catherine Breillat's take on the French aristocracy, among the current entries.

The tireless organizers of the French film fest should take a well-deserved bow for a thematically sumptuous lineup and good, reliable organization—and, hey, the screenings are free! The Shangri-La screenings (call 633-2227) run until tomorrow.

Roy . . .

From page H1

new modality—called 'floor time'—which I learned in the United States. We develop the emotions of the children. Instead of teaching them what to say, we connect with their true feelings. They learn to interact. *Nilalabas namin ang bata from his shell!*"

He's considering a directing stint someday. "It's a big career shift. But, it has to be a project worth doing." Why not a film about special children? He agrees: "My experience with special education is an eye-opener. For a writer, it's a very enriching one!"

Sarah...

From page H2

learns to move about as an undetectable ghost, he eventually realizes that his only hope to live again is to "solve" his own murder!

Jed Madela

At 5 p.m. tomorrow, Jed Madela's "Only Human" album tour hits SM Sta. Rosa. After the free show, Jed will sign autographs.

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3 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00
4 OCEAN'S 13
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:30 2:30 4:30 6:30
7 MEET the ROBINSONS
11:05 1:20 3:35 5:50
8 indieSine: BIG TIME
1:30 3:45 6:00 8:15
9 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
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12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

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3 OCEAN'S 13
11:25 2:05 4:45 7:25 10:00
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:00 2:10 4:20 6:30 8:40
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:40 2:50 5:00 7:10 9:20
7 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
11:15 2:50 6:25 10:00

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2 FANTASTIC FOUR
1:00 3:05 5:10 7:15
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
11:00 1:00 3:05 5:10 7:15 9:20
4 OCEAN'S 13
1:05 3:35 6:10 9:00
5 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
11:30 2:40 5:50 9:00
6 BORDERTOWN 11:30 2:40 5:50 9:00.
FANTASTIC FOUR 4:00 6:00 8:00
7 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:30 2:30 4:30 6:30 8:30
8 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
1:15 3:50 6:25 9:00

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2 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00
3 OCEAN'S 13
12:25 3:10 5:55 8:40
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4 SILIP
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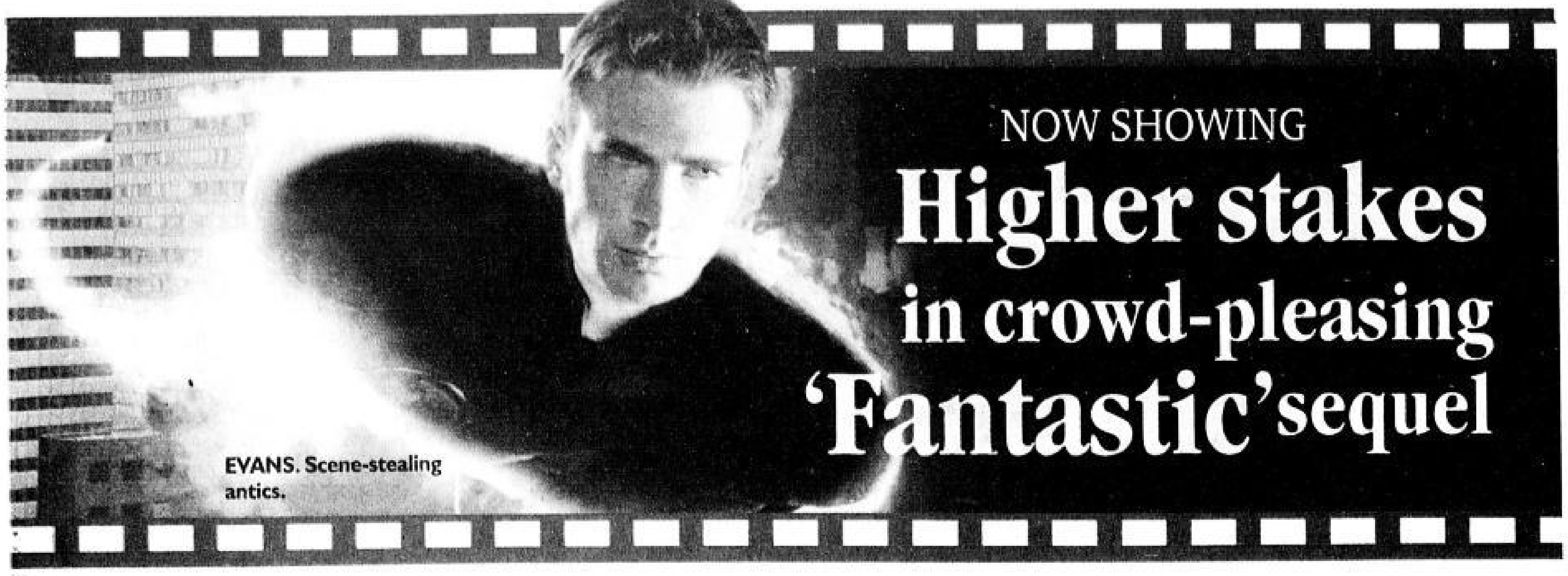


EVANS. Scene-stealing antics.

NOW SHOWING

Higher stakes in crowd-pleasing 'Fantastic' sequel

By Rito P. Asilo

"Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer"

D: Tim Story

S: Ioan Gruffudd, Chris Evans, Jessica Alba, Laurence Fishburne, Doug Jones, Michael Chiklis

THE STAKES ARE HIGHER IN THE Fantastic Four's second big-screen outing. Marvel's feisty quartet basks in director Tim Story's high-camp cinematic rendering and comic-style concept. Ioan Gruffudd (Reed Richards *aka* Mr. Fantastic), Chris Evans (Johnny Storm *aka* The Human Torch), Michael Chiklis (Ben Grimm *aka* The Thing), and Jessica Alba (Sue Storm *aka* Invisible Woman) return to the financially lucrative superhero franchise.

In the entertaining sequel, the super quartet is forced to team up with the "resurrected" Dr. Doom (Julian McMahon) to battle a different kind of nemesis: The mysterious Silver Surfer *aka* Norrin Radd (Doug Jones, with Laurence Fishburne providing his voice), the space-faring explorer who roams outer space on his cosmic-powered surfboard as the herald for Galactus—a living cosmic force who devours worlds to survive by feeding on intergalactic energy.

On the Silver Surfer's invincible shoulder rests the task to search for new planets for Galactus to consume—and he decides that it's time for Earth to bite the dust! —But, not if the fantastic foursome has a say about the matter!

The 37-year-old filmmaker retains the 2005 original's light but confident storytelling style and tongue-in-cheek handling of its straightforward good-versus-evil theme. Devoid of lofty cinematic pretensions, Story's movie delivers a brisk, CGI-laden visual spectacle that boasts of blockbusting visual thrills as it skillfully executes its narrative's doomsday elements. Yes, this sequel is better and faster than its predecessor!

THE SUPER quartet's second big-screen outing is better and faster than its predecessor.

The motion picture's topnotch technical achievements are synergized further by its decision to use the debate on global warming as a backdrop to move its story: London's dried-up River Thames, Japan's frozen Suruga Bay, or Egypt's ice-covered pyramids are not a pretty sight, that's for sure!

Chris Evans continues his crowd-pleasing, scene-stealing antics as he paces his co-actors' adequate albeit perfunctory portrayals. The Silver Surfer cuts an imposing presence on the big-screen, and Fishburne's sonorous bass and Jones' special-effects-guided character and movement references make for an appropriate match to "create" the mysterious anti-hero.

This time, too, the characters are allowed to go beyond caricature—the bad guys aren't as bad as they seem, because they're not as hardened as most comic-book characters are written. Johnny learns how it feels to be unwanted. So, when he makes the ultimate sacrifice, the emotional payback becomes a cathartic experience—for The Human Torch and for his cheering audience!

"Bordertown"

D: Gregory Nava

S: Jennifer Lopez, Antonio Banderas Juan Diego Botto, Martin Sheen

The industrial district of Juarez, Mexico takes center stage in Gregory

HIGHER/ H2

Navigate life
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
NAUTICA
GLORIETTA 4 GATEWAY MALL THE PODIUM SM MALL OF ASIA

SMITH AND WINFREY. The beauty queen and her former boss.

Strong bond develops between Oprah and Miss USA

By Nestor U. Torre

TO DATE, MISS USA RACHEL SMITH'S most public act has been the big pratfall she took on the Miss Universe stage in Mexico last month. She recovered beautifully, but what people remember most is still—that painful pratfall!

But it turns out that there's much more to Rachel Smith than viewers realize. On a recent telecast of Oprah Winfrey's new show on the Hallmark Channel at 1 p.m. weekdays, Oprah revealed to her loyal viewers that Rachel had been an intern for eight months, doing publicity for Harpo Productions!

Former intern

Of course, Oprah was mighty proud of what her former intern has accomplished. And, as their interview proceeded, we saw an interesting bond develop between the two women—a bond strong enough for us to speculate that, some years hence, Rachel could get her own talk show and help make the world a better place to live in, like her senior mentor has for the past 21 years.

We got this tentative epiphany when Rachel shared that she had finished Journalism at Belmont University, and had graduated *magna cum laude*.

And, like Oprah, she was interested in helping young people have a brighter future. So, after her Harpo internship, she volunteered to teach in Oprah's new school for exceptional girls in South Africa.

Now that she's Miss USA, however, Rachel has put her other priorities on hold as she lives the busy, exciting life of a beauty queen. But, she doesn't seem to be the type to "go show biz" after her reign. Her own talk show seems to be a more likely prospect—and Oprah proudly and definitely approves.

Upward trajectory

Rachel Smith has taken a big and much too public pratfall, but it looks like it'll be an upward trajectory for her life and career from here on in!

Ever since "Oprah" started airing weekday afternoons on Hallmark, we've caught other interesting episodes, and have especially appreciated the fact that they're all from its current season, not the old replays you sometimes get on other telecasts of the seminal talk show.

One inspiring feature focused on a family of six that took an entire year off to travel around the world. The globetrotters learned a lot from the exhilarating experience, proving that travel is truly broadening, because it teaches valuable lessons that school never could.

This once-in-a-lifetime adventure isn't for everybody, but for people who love going down the road less traveled, it's the way to go.

Impediments

What did the kids value most among all the lessons their year abroad had taught them? That people are really the same everywhere—if you can get through the superficial impediments and distractions of race, creed, custom and lifestyle.

Another provocative insight: The kids were struck by the fact that many of the poor people they had met in different countries were happy. *Really* happy.

SATURDAY Special

School-themed movies depict the dynamics of academic life

By Sharon Robas-Macawile

ROBERTS (CENTER). A teacher in "Mona Lisa Smile."

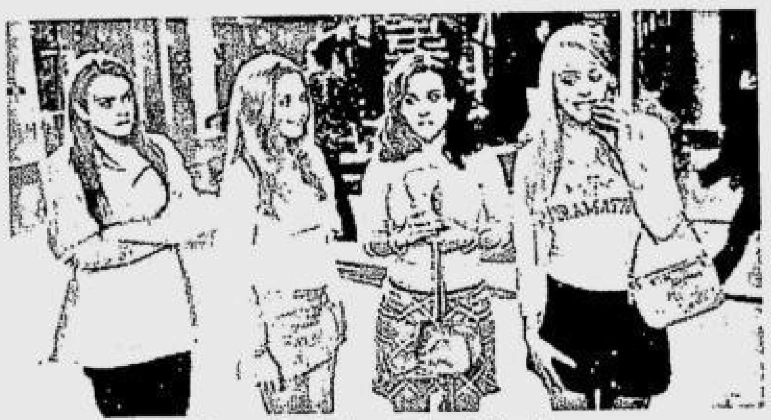
IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE I GRADUATED from school. Recently, Janette, my best friend since college, told me how she had sorely missed school and cried when she went there to get the documents she needed for a second course.

School is really one place where memories—good and bad—abound. And the memories of student life linger as the years go by. How can you forget the colorful, complicated people you met on campus? The nerds and brats, the scholars, the "prom queen" wannabes, the athletes, the "crush *ng bayan*," the rich and *pa*-rich, the terror teachers and cute professors—name them!

Lasting friendships

Aside from those interesting personalities, it's also in school where lasting friendships are forged, love blooms, characters are honed, and wisdom is gained to prepare us for the "real" world. Tapping into this motherlode of emotions, many school-themed movies have been produced that depict the ups and downs of student life. To usher in the school year, here are some titles from our prized collection:

WITHERSPOON as Elle Woods in "Legally Blonde."



"MEAN GIRLS." Teenagers in the academic jungle.

"Mean Girls" (2004). Many of us have probably experienced some sort of "culture shock" in school at one time or another. For people who have been brought up in the province, like me, studying in the city takes a lot of getting used to. But, imagine how home-schooled, African-born Cady Heron (Lindsay Lohan) struggle to make it through her academic jungle in urban Chicago. Befriending the meanest girls in school doesn't sound like a good idea, but Cady has to fit in to survive! Caution to students: Beware of the "Plastics," they're everywhere on campus!

"Mona Lisa Smile" (2003). This movie could very well be dubbed "Dead Poet's Society—Female Version." It stars Julia Roberts as Katherine Watson, a free-spirited UCLA graduate who's hired as the new arts teacher at a conservative girls' school. Set in the '50s, the movie shows how Roberts tries to instill in her young students' minds that they can choose whoever they want to be—they don't have to conform to society's standards.

New career

"Legally Blonde" (2001). If you're the hottest girl in school and your boyfriend dumps you, it doesn't have to be the end of the world. In fact, it can be the beginning of a new career-like—law?! Trust Elle Woods (Reese Witherspoon) to light up the august halls of Harvard Law School as she tries to

SCHOOL-THEMED/ 14

thanks dad
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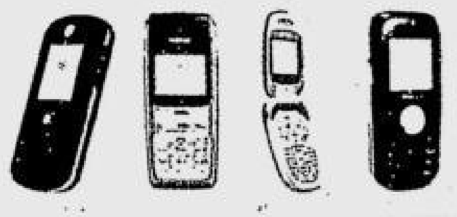

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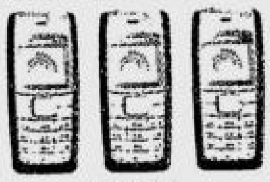

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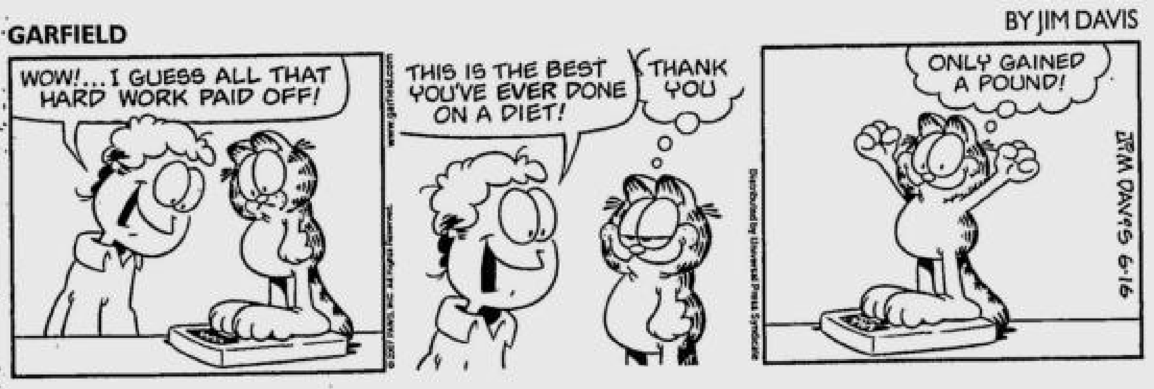
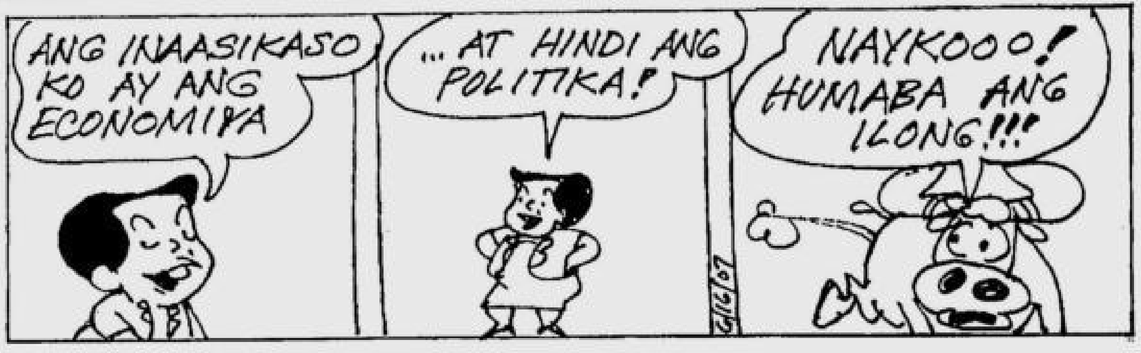
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


WOW!... I GUESS ALL THAT HARD WORK PAID OFF!
THIS IS THE BEST YOU'VE EVER DONE ON A DIET!
THANK YOU
ONLY GAINED A POUND!
JIM DAVIS 6-16

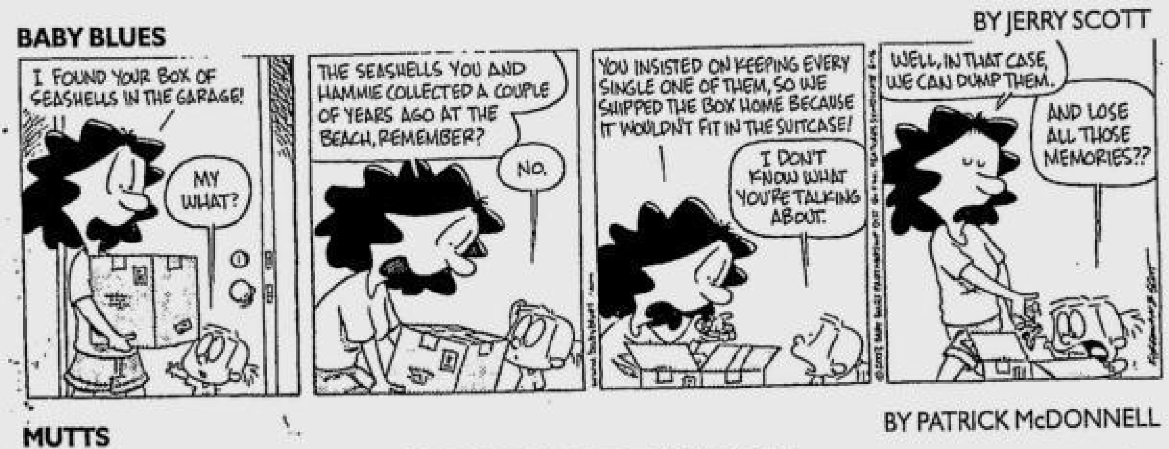
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANG INAASIKASO KO AY ANG ECONOMIYA
... AT HINDI ANG POLITIKA!
NAYKOOO! HUMABA ANG ILONG!!!
6/16/07

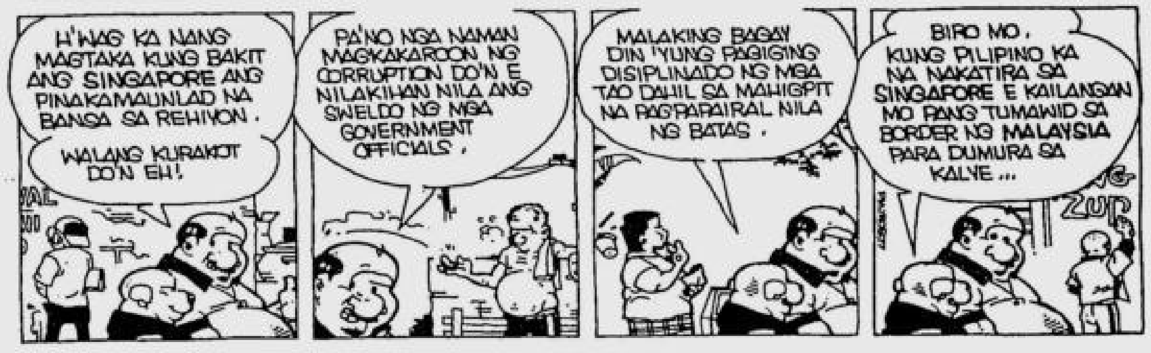
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I FOUND YOUR BOX OF SEASHELLS IN THE GARAGE!
MY WHAT?
THE SEASHELLS YOU AND HAMMIE COLLECTED A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO AT THE BEACH, REMEMBER?
NO.
YOU INSISTED ON KEEPING EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM, SO WE SHIPPED THE BOX HOME BECAUSE IT WOULDN'T FIT IN THE SUITCASE!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
WELL, IN THAT CASE, WE CAN DUMP THEM.
AND LOSE ALL THOSE MEMORIES??

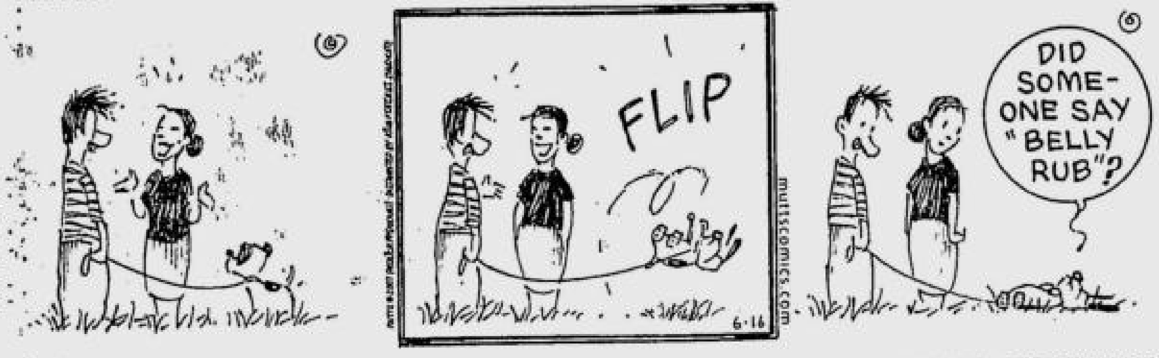
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


H'WAG KA NANG MAGTAKA KUNG BAKIT ANG SINGAPORE ANG PINAKAMAUNLAD NA BANSA SA REHIYON.
WALANG KURAKOT DO'N EH!
PA'NO NGA NAMAN MAGKAKAROON NG CORRUPTION DO'N E NILAKIHAN NILA ANG SWELDO NG MGA GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.
MALAKING BAGAY DIN 'YUNG PAGIGING DISIPLINADO NG MGA TAO DAHIL SA MAHIGPIT NA PAGPAPAIRAL NILA NG BATAS.
BIRO MO. KUNG PILIPINO KA NA NAKATIRA SA SINGAPORE E KAILANGAN MO PANG TUMAWID SA BORDER NG MALAYSIA PARA DUMURA SA KALYE...

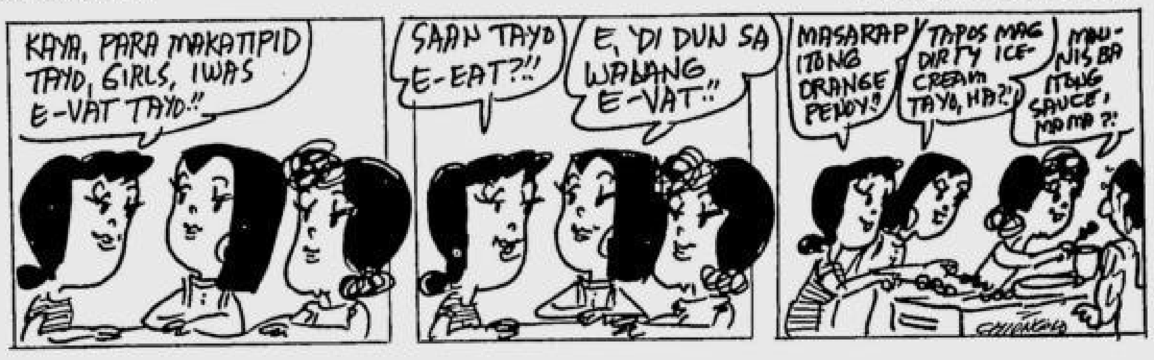
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


FLIP
6-16
mutts comics.com
DID SOME-ONE SAY "BELLY RUB"?

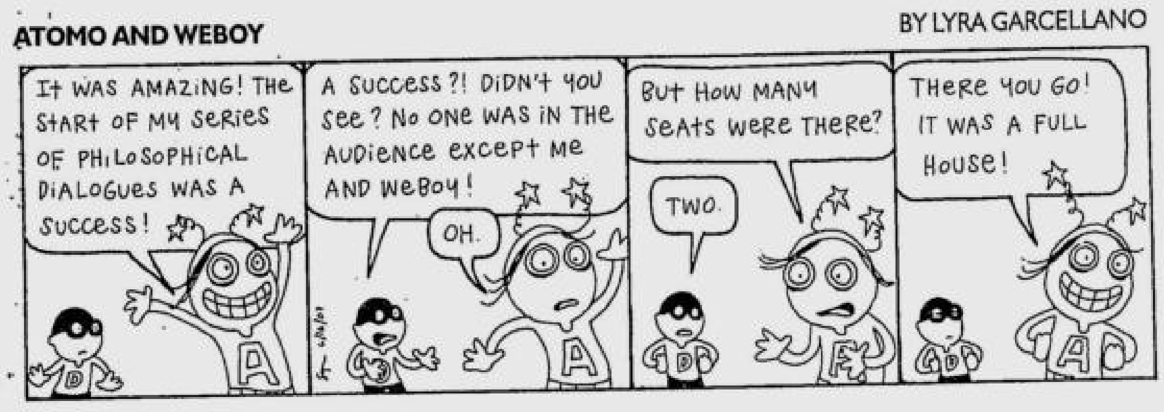
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


KAYA, PARA MAKATIPID TAYO, GIRLS, IWAS E-VAT TAYO!
SAAN TAYO E-EAT?!!
E, 'DI DUN SA WALANG E-VAT!!
MASARAP ITONG ORANGE PEKOY!
TAPOS MAG DIRTY ICE-CREAM TAYO, HA?!
MAU-NIS BA ITONG SAUCE, MAMA?!
CHIONGLO

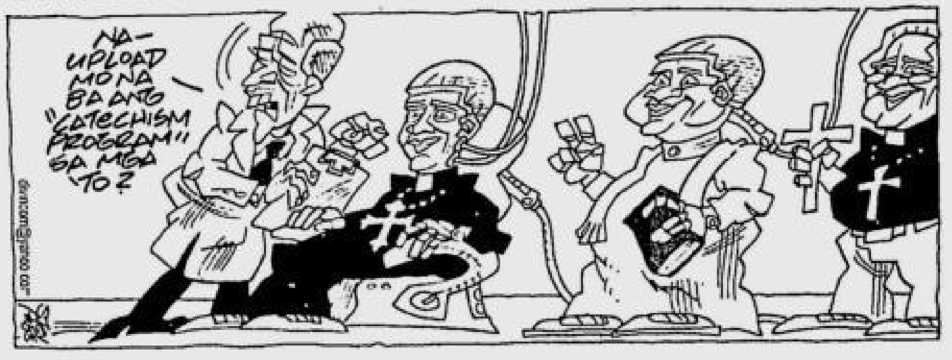
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


It WAS AMAZING! The start of my series of Philosophical Dialogues was a success!
A success?! Didn't you see? No one was in the audience except me and Weboy!
OH.
But how many seats were there?
TWO.
There you go! It was a full house!

DIVINE COMEDY

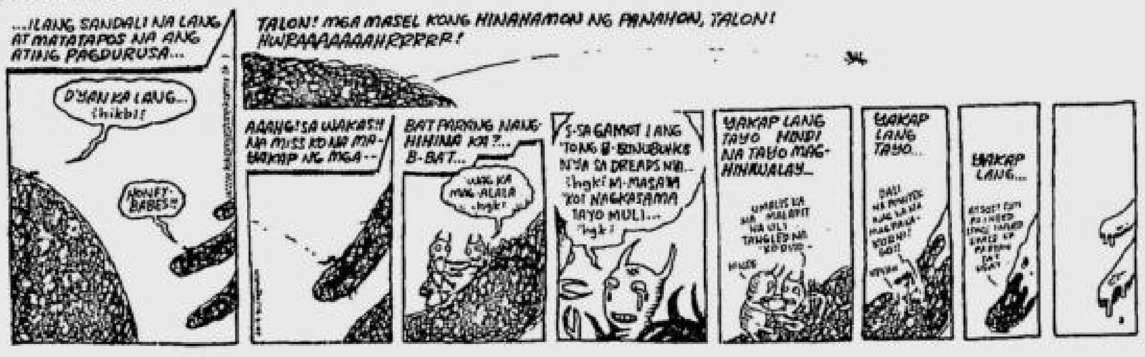
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


NA-UPLOAD MO NA BA ANG "CATECHISM PROGRAM" SA MGA 'TO?

MAY NAISIP NA SOLUSYON ANG VATICAN PARA MATUGUNAN NA ANG PROBLEMA SA SHORTAGE NG MGA PARI: ROBOPRIESTS!

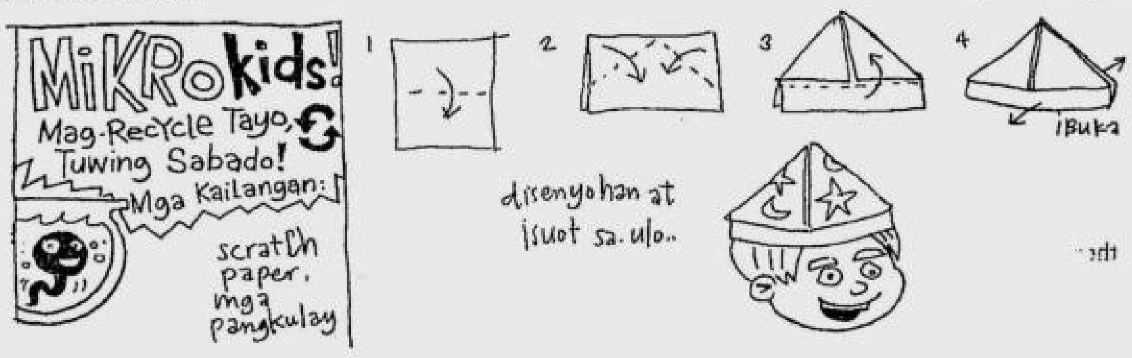
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


...ILANG SANDALI NA LANG AT MATATAPOS NA ANG ATING PAGDURUSA...
D'YAN KA LANG... (hikbi)
HONEY-BABES!!
TALON! MGA MASEL KONG HINAHAMON NG PANAHON, TALON! HWRAAAAAAAHRRRRR!
AAAHG! SA WAKAS!! NA MISS KO NA MA-YAKAP NG MGA--
BAT PARANG NANG-HIHINA KA?... B-BAT...
WAG KA MAG-ALALA (hgk)
S-SA GAMOT LANG 'TONG B-BINUBUKS NIYA SA DREADS NIA... (hgk) M-MASAYA 'KOI NAGKASAMA TAYO MULI... (hgk)
YAKAP LANG TAYO HINDI NA TAYO MAG-HIHIWALAY...
YAKAP LANG TAYO...
YAKAP LANG...

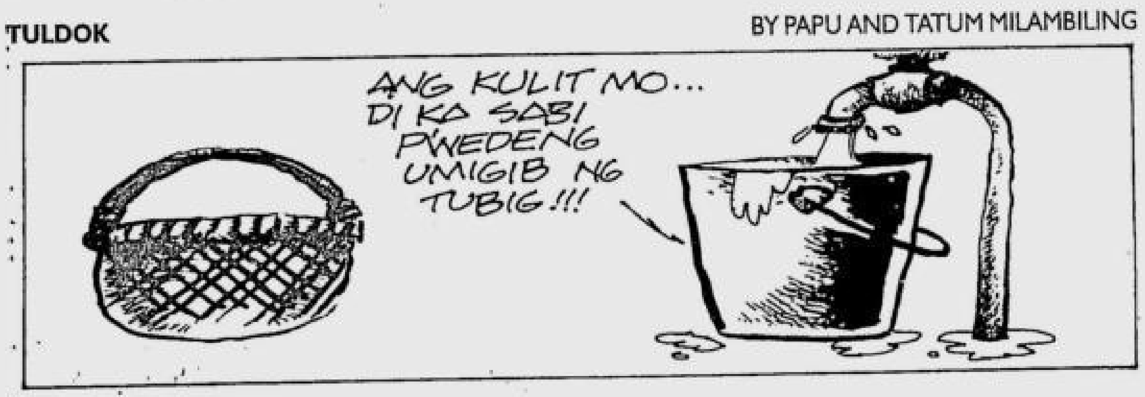
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRo kids!
Mag-Recycle Tayo, Tuwing Sabado!
Mga Kailangan:
scratch paper, mga pangkulay
1
2
3
4
iBuka
disenyohan at isuot sa ulo..

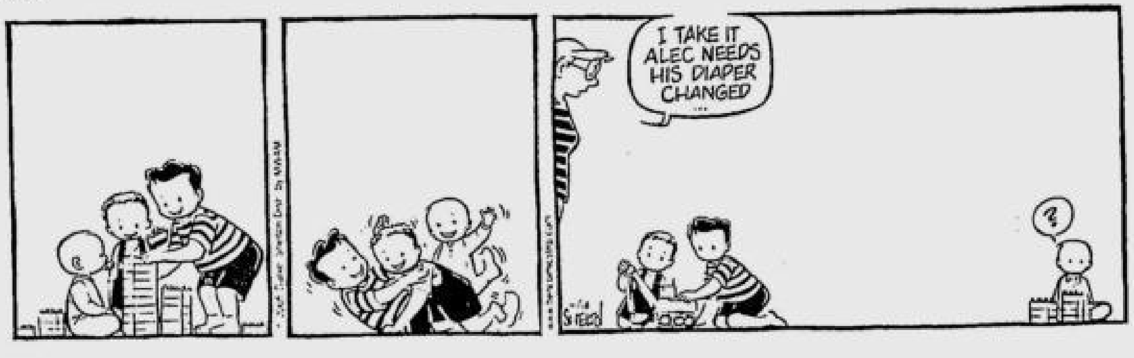
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

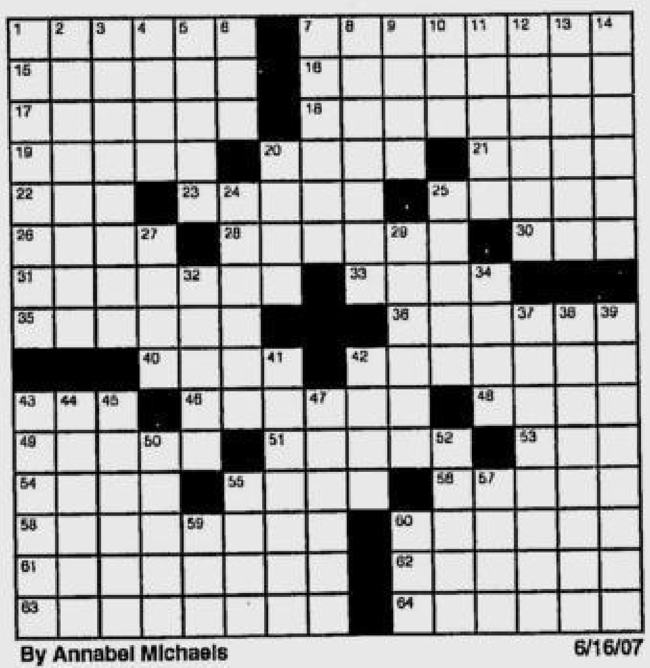

ANG KULIT MO... DI KA SABI PWEDENG UMIGIB NG TUBIG!!!

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I TAKE IT ALEC NEEDS HIS DIAPER CHANGED
?

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Annabel Michaels
Williamsburg, VA

6/16/07

ACROSS
1 First mass-produced car
7 Return to roost
15 Very handsome young man
16 Western Hemisphere
17 Slo-mo shot
18 Harshly resonant
19 Clapton's super group
20 At rest
21 Dorothy's pet
22 Once owned
23 Be of the same mind
25 Robinson of the NBA
26 Adam's grandson
28 Gave clues
30 Set of parts
31 Fine plasters
33 Swine's supper
35 John Jacob and Mary
36 Forced onward
40 "Swan Lake" costume
42 Foreordain
43 Mind reading
46 Spots
48 Biggest seat in the house
49 Independently
51 Garbo of movies
53 Sodom survivor
54 In one's right mind
55 Out of
56 Back of a boat
58 Three-hulled sailboat
60 On the double
61 Storming the ramparts
62 Deals in stolen goods
63 Postponed
64 Attempters

DOWN
1 Italian noblewoman
2 Effective things
3 Solved, as a mystery
4 Singer Fitzgerald
5 South American beast of burden
6 Child's plaything
7 New Jersey city
8 Breakfast dishes
9 Portion (out)
10 Beat or Jazz, e.g.
11 Sword handles
12 "Twelve ___ High"
13 Rum cocktail
14 Companion
20 "A Severed Head" author Murdoch
24 Haunters
25 Airs in the air
27 Aberdeen resident
29 First-born
32 Vinegar bottle
34 Low places
37 Thuggery
38 Hatchetman
39 Apple-pie order
41 Frequent-flyer perk
42 Judge
43 Chilean island
44 Widely scattered
45 Stampedes
47 Smoothed (out)
50 Chart again
52 Fall blossom
55 "Animal House" setting
57 Nobel-winner Morrison
59 Mr. Baba
60 Away from the prow

Friday's Puzzle Solved

S	T	O	L	E	■	D	O	L	E	■	A	D	U	E
L	A	D	E	N	■	O	V	E	N	■	B	I	N	S
O	R	A	N	G	E	Z	E	S	T	■	B	A	I	T
■	■	■	S	A	W	E	R	■	R	I	A	L	T	O
A	D	D	■	G	E	N	T	E	E	L	■	A	S	P
R	I	O	T	E	R	■	■	G	A	L	O	P	■	■
D	A	V	I	D	■	C	A	R	T	■	A	R	A	M
O	N	E	R	■	S	I	N	E	S	■	T	A	L	E
R	A	T	E	■	E	D	I	T	■	P	H	Y	F	E
■	■	A	S	I	D	E	■	■	D	E	S	E	R	T
A	L	I	■	C	A	R	A	M	E	L	■	R	E	S
G	U	L	L	E	T	■	P	A	N	I	C	■	■	■
A	R	I	A	■	I	V	O	R	Y	C	O	A	S	T
T	E	N	T	■	V	E	R	T	■	A	D	L	A	I
E	D	G	E	■	E	T	T	A	■	N	Y	L	O	N

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6/16/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You like to succeed at whatever you do, and you generally do succeed because you're patient and you know what you're doing. You also take a long-range view of things. You're skilled at turning a negative situation into a positive one. Where others see problems, you see answers. Work hard in the year ahead to build or construct something important. Your rewards will soon follow.
Birthdate of: Phil Mickelson, golfer; Diana Degarmo, "American Idol" finalist; Kerry Wood, baseball pitcher.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Something unusual might happen today within your family or your home scene. Stock the fridge; unexpected company might drop by. Possibly, a family member will surprise you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Be extra careful when walking, driving or even talking today. Minor accidents could occur. You suddenly might say something you later regret. However, it's also an exciting, "different" day!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Spontaneous purchases and impulse spending are likely today. On the other hand (you have different fingers), some of you might find money today or see new ways of earning money.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You feel restless, excited and ready for anything today. Expect to meet someone surprising or, at least, more interesting than usual.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Get out and do something different today. You feel too restless to stay at home. Prepare for minor surprises from unexpected sources (just small stuff).

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You might meet someone new and unusual today, perhaps someone from a very different background or culture from yours. It's a stimulating, interesting experience.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Parents, bosses or authority figures might surprise you today. On the other hand, you might have a new opportunity to make a name for yourself in some way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You want to broaden your horizons. Do something different today. Sign up for a course. Go someplace you've never been before. Talk to people from other cultures.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Surprise news about shared possessions or your partner's income is possible today. Nothing to worry about; it's a minor detail. Unexpected flirtations might delight you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Listen patiently if someone close to you has something a bit bizarre to say. If you keep an open mind, you can learn something new. Accept all invitations.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Computer glitches, power outages and interruptions to your daily schedule are likely today. However, these interruptions could throw a fresh, new slant on things.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Surprise flirtations might please you today. Be on the lookout to do something new and entertaining. Shake things up a little. Playful times with children or unexpected social occasions can make this an interesting day.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

				4				
	7					5	1	
	5			7	2			
		9						
8		5		9		2		4
						3		
			1	6			9	
	6	2					7	
				3				

Difficulty Level ★★★★
6/16

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

3	9	8	4	7	1	6	5	2
6	1	7	3	2	5	9	4	8
4	2	5	9	8	6	7	1	3
7	3	4	1	6	9	2	8	5
9	5	2	8	4	7	3	6	1
8	6	1	5	3	2	4	9	7
5	7	6	2	9	8	1	3	4
1	4	9	7	5	3	8	2	6
2	8	3	6	1	4	5	7	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★
6/15

THEY WRITE THE SCRIPTS

Raquel Villavicencio dissects jealousy

By Ronald G. Mangubat

VILLAVICENCIO. She's learned to master the art of compromise and collaboration.

AFTER WRITING MORE THAN 60 SCREENplays, Raquel Villavicencio dissects jealousy in Joel Lamangan's current film, "Silip," under Seiko Films. While this theme has been tackled before in films, Villavicencio says she and *direk* Joel gave it a fresh twist with an edgy storyline.

She explains: "We veered away from the usual verbal tack in telling the tale of how jealousy can attack like a disease and destroy relationships."

Set in isolated and bucolic farms in Nueva Ecija, "Silip" stars Diana Zubiri and Polo Ravales as a couple whose peaceful lives are marred when Francine Prieto's character, a mysterious woman from the city, enters the picture as the subject of Zubiri's jealousy.

She adds, "But, there's a twist in the ending that I don't want to reveal. The story says a lot about how people perceive reality differently."

It took Villavicencio one week to write "Silip's" final draft. Despite the tight deadline, the plot points and characters were already clear in her mind before she sat down to write the script. "The idea came from *direk* Joel," Villavicencio shares. "Along with Seiko's big boss, Robbie Tan, we discussed the story for hours until everything fell into place."

Final cut

After seeing the movie's final cut, the writer of blockbusters like "Blusang Itim," "Init sa Magdamag," and "Ina, Kasusuklaman Ba Kita?," says the film is how she envisioned it to be: "Screenwriters understand that a director's vision is sometimes different from the writer's. A lot of times, no matter how seamlessly the writer would describe a scene, the director's interpretation would be different."

Villavicencio knows whereof she speaks. After more than three decades in the business, this masscom graduate from Maryknoll says she's learned to master the art of compromise and collaboration.

She recalls, "There was a time when I'd get upset for weeks whenever my ideas would clash with the producers' and directors', or when I would read bad reviews about the movies whose screenplays I wrote. But not anymore, and more so when I started acting in the movies of my director-friends."

Domesticated life

It has been more than 30 years since Villavicencio decided to abandon her domesticated life after attending a one-month LVN film workshop under director Mike de Leon.

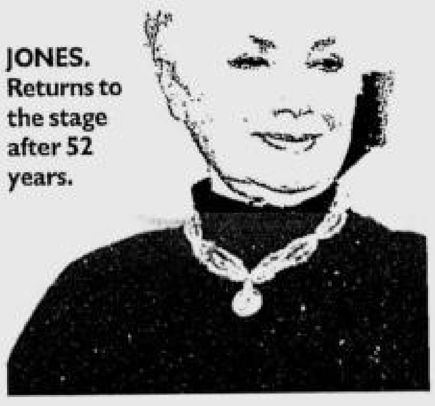
She reveals: "Mike was my mentor. He took me in as a co-writer (together with Doy del Mundo) for his classic films like 'Batch '81,' 'Kakabakaba Ka Ba?,' and 'Kisapmata.' I did production design for Eddie Romero, then I wrote my first solo screenplay ('Teenage Marriage') for Mel Chionglo. Drama is my forte, though."

How does she write her stories? She replies: "I'm not like other writers who sit for hours to think about what they're going to write. I do my daily chores, and let the ideas simmer in my head. Sometimes, I get carried away with the scenes and cry with my characters.

"The most difficult part is to write the first scene, because you have to catch the audience's attention immediately. After that, everything flows naturally."

Does she ever run out of ideas? "*Hindi naman,*" Villavicencio quips. "I believe that, as long as you read and interact with people on a constant basis, new ideas will emerge. But, I advise writers to get a life outside show biz. Sometimes, if you get too focused on this job, you quickly get drained!"

Shirley Jones honored for her contributions to musical theater



JONES. Returns to the stage after 52 years.

PITTSBURGH—SHIRLEY JONES, WHO starred in Hollywood musicals before she became known as the matriarch of TV's "The Partridge Family," has been honored by the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera for her lifetime contribution to musical theater.

Jones, who was born in nearby Charleroi, Pennsylvania, was presented the Richard Rodgers Award for Excellence in Musical Theater recently.

Previous recipients

Previous recipients include Mary Martin, Julie Andrews, Bernadette Peters, and Gwen Verdon; composers Stephen Sondheim and Andrew Lloyd Webber; and theatrical producers, Cameron Mackintosh and Harold Prince.

Jones, 73, will appear as Aunt Eller in the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera production of "Oklahoma!" this month. She played Laurey Williams in the 1955 movie based on the Rodgers and Hammerstein stage musical.

"To be able to return to the stage 52 years later is an accomplishment, I suppose," Jones mused.

Jones won an Oscar for her role in 1960's "Elmer Gantry." Her screen credits also include "Carousel," "The Music Man," "The Courtship of Eddie's Father," and "The Cheyenne Social Club." *AP*

Prayer to the Supreme Father

Lotus Pond

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

THERE'S NO GREATER FATHER than the Supreme Being. Thousands of years ago, Mother Earth offered to Him her most humble prayer and recited this:

"My dear Lord, You're always adorned with a garland of lotus flowers. Your arms reach out like their petals. They're pleasing to the eyes. Your lotus feet are soft and delicate. I offer you respect.

"You possess fame, knowledge, and renunciation—you shelter the five objects of opulence. You are the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and the supreme cause of all causes. Your Lordship is the reservoir of knowledge and all forms of energy. You are the cause and effect of this cosmic manifestation!

Material creator

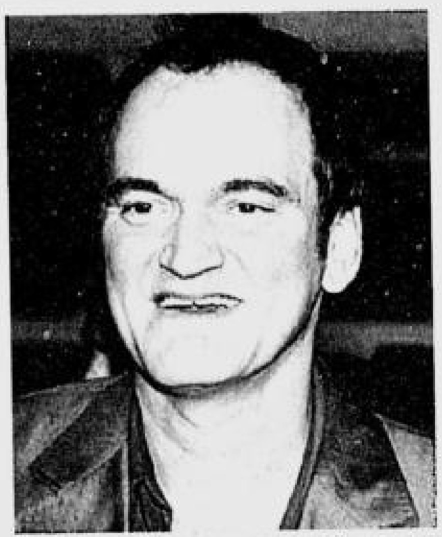
"My Lord, You are the father of the universe, the material creator, and the eternal time. I know that earth, water, fire, air, sky, the five sense objects, the mind and ego—everything animate and inanimate in this world—rests upon You.

Obeisance

"Since everything comes from You, nothing can also be separated from You. Yet, no material can be identified with You. Therefore, everything is simultaneously one and different from Your reach. Please accept my respectful obeisance."

Mother Earth explained how everything comes from the Supreme Father—the center of all existence. Let's not forget to honor Him during Father's Day. He is our true father, benefactor, and friend.

Italian film industry rebukes Tarantino



TARANTINO. Under fire for his candid comments.

THE ITALIAN FILM INDUSTRY IS UP IN arms after recent comments from director Quentin Tarantino, who called the current state of the film industry "depressing."

Special sidebar

Recently, Italian newspapers reacted to the American director's comments, which came less than a month after it was revealed that he would copresent a series of Spaghetti Westerns in a special sidebar at this year's Venice Film Festival.

Tarantino is known to be a fan of old Italian films. But, according to his recent comments published in Sorrisi & Canzioni—the country's leading television magazine—his love for the country's film productions does not extend to its more contemporary motion pictures.

"New Italian cinema is depressing," Tarantino declared. "The recent films I've seen are all the same. They talk about boys growing up, or girls growing up, or couples having a crisis, or vacations of the mentally impaired."

Those defending modern Italian cinema included some of the best-known names in the industry. "How dare he talk about Italian cinema when he doesn't know anything about American cinema?," asked Sophia Loren.

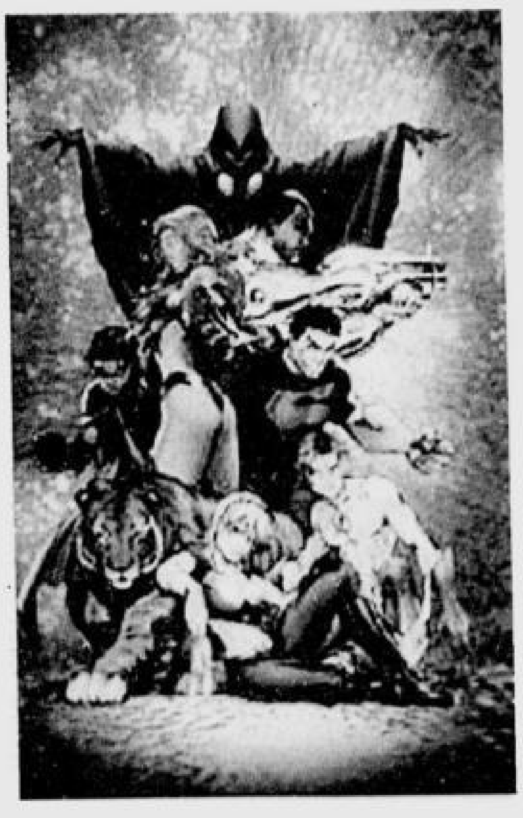
"Tarantino is a brute," said filmmaker-actor Marco Bellocchio, a five-time Palme d'Or nominee at the Cannes Film Festival, and a member of this year's Cannes jury.

Counterattack

Even editorial writers got in on the counterattack, with the left-wing daily, L'Unita, saying Tarantino was "mentally impaired."

The center-left daily, La Repubblica, Italy's second largest newspaper, said that if Italian film isn't what it used to be, neither was the outspoken American director: "Tarantino is no longer the Tarantino who made 'Pulp Fiction!'" *Reuters*

Teen Titans get big-screen treatment



TEEN TITANS. Their turn to shine.

LOS ANGELES—THE TEEN TItans are getting Warner Brothers' big-screen treatment: The live-action adaptation of DC Comics' superhero team series first appeared in 1964 as a junior superhero version of the Justice League, comprising Robin, Kid Flash, Aqualad, Wonder Girl, and Speedy—the respective sidekicks of A-list heroes, Batman, Flash, Aquaman, Wonder Woman, and Green Arrow.

Mature themes

It reached X-Men-style success in the 1980s, when the team was relaunched in a new comic with the characters no longer kids but college-age adults, and the stories explored more mature themes.

The series also saw the addition of Cyborg, Starfire and Raven, original characters who weren't sidekicks, while the character of Robin matured into Nightwing.

Most recently, the comic was adapted to the television screen with a Cartoon Network series that ran for three years from 2003.

The show used many of the '80s comics' heroes and storylines. It's not known which heroes will be used in the movie version, but Nightwing is said to be in the mix.

The film's producer, Akiva Goldsman, said the tone will be consistent with such recent Warners' comic book fare as "Batman Begins," "Superman Returns," and the upcoming "Watchmen." *Reuters*

Sigourney ...

From page 14

That it does not throw her doctor more off guard is completely mind-boggling.

Skip and Mary also engage in an improbable romance, which is explained only by the college-age boy's boredom at school and loathing of his mother.

Funny scene

What it does allow, though, is a wonderfully funny scene in which their relationship is slowly revealed to hard-bitten Lydia, shocking her thoroughly and causing her to melt down in a crying fit. Weaver, so tightly wound to that point, handles the moment with aplomb.

"Crazy Mary" reunites Weaver with director Jim Simpson three years after they worked together in Gurney's play, "Mrs. Farnsworth."

While there are moments of "Crazy Mary" that sparkle with the wit and sophistication of Gurney's earlier work, you wish for a slightly fuller script that could support the fine performances of the play's leading actresses. *AP*

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
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SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL
4 OCEAN'S THIRTEEN
PREMIERE
FANTASTIC FOUR

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 OCEAN'S THIRTEEN

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266160
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 SILIP
5 RESERVED

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www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 SILIP
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 BORDERTOWN

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SILIP
PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena tel (042) 660-5271
FANTASTIC FOUR
PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
RESERVED
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Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMAS
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1 BORDERTOWN
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 OCEAN'S THIRTEEN
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 FANTASTIC FOUR
8 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
9 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
10 SHREK THE THIRD

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
2 (DOLBY) PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 SILIP

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 OCEAN'S THIRTEEN
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 MR. BEAN'S HO;IDAY
4 SILIP

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 OCEAN'S THIRTEEN
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 SILIP

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 SILIP
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 SILIP
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 SILIP
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
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CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN / OCEAN'S 13
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 FANTASTIC FOUR

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 SILIP
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 WHISPER
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 28 WEEKS LATER / LUCKY YOU
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR

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1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 SILIP
2 LUPE
3 NAGAAPOY NA DAGAT
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1 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
2 AKIN KA NGAYON GABI
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT
5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 SILIP
2 28 WEEKS LATER
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 SILIP
2 THE FRUIT IS SWEELING

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Love & kisses, hate & hisses

By Nestor U. Torre

ON A GOOD DAY, STARS EXUDE THE GLOW of love, success, contentment—and the serious bling-bling that stellar prosperity pays for! They share their heart of hearts with fans, with enough love and kisses to go around:

Paul Newman: Robert Redford is the perfect star. He's a star even in the shower! No water spray would dare hassle him. The water would never be too hot or too cold, and the eggs at breakfast would always come out perfect!

Bruce Willis: Meryl Streep is the greatest actor America has produced—man *and* woman!

Relationships

Jane Fonda: Women do it all! We create the relationships. We maintain the households. We raise the children. We bring in half the income. We are the souls and the nurturers!

—On the *other* hand, when they're feeling under the weather and blue in the gills, stars can undergo a Jeckyll-and-Hyde transformation and become as mean as a pit bull doused with itching powder. From love and kisses to hate and hisses in one fell swoop!:

Tom Cruise: This star stuff really eats you up!

Robert De Niro: A Hollywood star is death as far as acting is concerned. I don't want people to recognize me in the streets. I don't want to do what stars have to do—repeat themselves in film after film after *film*, always being themselves!

Jack Nicholson: There are two ways up the ladder—hand over hand, or scratching and clawing. It's sure been tough on my nails!

Obnoxious show-off

Meryl Streep: I was an ugly little kid with a big mouth, an obnoxious show-off. Nobody liked me. I was bossy, prim, and determined. I looked middle-aged, and the other kids thought I was one of the teachers!

Sophia Loren: I'm a giraffe. I even walk like a giraffe with a long neck and legs. It's a pretty dumb animal, mind you!

DE NIRO. He doesn't like repeating himself.

Alain Delon: I have the worst possible character, and I'm constantly hurting people, especially those who love me most. I learned very young that no one's going to tolerate me. I either charm people, or they detest me!

Peter Sellers: There is no me. I do not exist. There used to be a me, but I had it surgically removed!

Mel Gibson: You can't live up to what people expect. Nobody can. But, that's their problem, not mine.

Marcello Mastoianni: Moviegoers are people who don't know what to do with their lives—so, they go to the movies.

Paul Newman: The second you step out of the confines of the personality the public has set for you, they get incensed. Public reaction tends to keep actors as personalities instead of allowing them to act. It's a very corrupting influence!

Marlon Brando: I'm not going to place myself at the feet of the American public and invite them into my soul. My soul is a private place.

Sex symbol

Sandy Dennis: Alec Baldwin is this big new alleged sex symbol. But, he has eyes like a weasel. He makes Clint Eastwood look like a flirt!

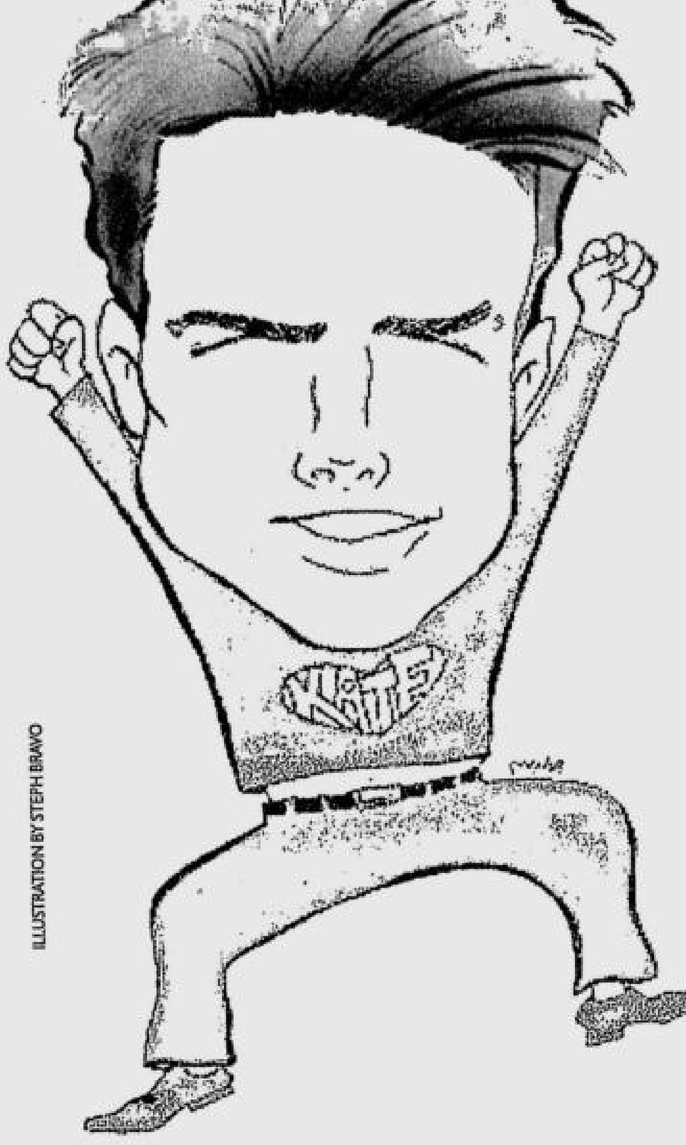
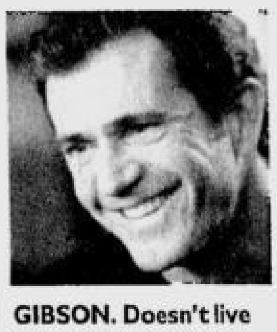


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

CRUISE. Stardom eats you up!

STREEP. Nobody liked her.



GIBSON. Doesn't live up to what people expect.

Bette Davis: Lillian Gish should know about closeups. Lord, she was around when they were first invented!

Dirk Bogarde: Julie Christie's idea of fidelity is not having more than one man in bed with her at the same time!

Richard Harris: The trouble with Charlton Heston is he doesn't think he's just a hired actor, like the rest of us—he thinks he's the entire production!

John Wayne: Clark Gable is an idiot. You know why he's an actor? It's the *only* thing he's smart enough to do!

Yves Montand: Arnold Schwarzenegger is a farce. In a more sophisticated culture, he would have remained a body builder. In the US, he not only is a movie star, he also has political power!

Red Buttons: Where else but in America can a poor, black boy like Michael Jackson grow up to be a rich, white woman?

Money

Anthony Perkin: How did Hollywood get to be so ugly? Why is it today's actors look like male hookers? Alec Baldwin, Richard Gere, Keifer Sutherland—they look like they haven't slept for days, except perhaps for money!

Mamie Van Doren: Warren Beatty is the type of man who will end up dying in his own arms.

Joan Rivers: Once they're dead, death just scrub celebrities clean. Everybody says, "Oh, they were wonderful!" Suddenly, Grace Kelly didn't drink.

W.C. Fields: I am free of all prejudices. I hate everyone *equally!*

Sigourney Weaver breathes life into flawed play

WEAVER. Topbills A.R. Gurney's "Crazy Mary."

NEW YORK—FROM THE MOMENT Sigourney Weaver enters the stage at Playwrights Horizons, an unpleasant smile is plastered across her face—not the kind that exudes happiness, but the type that barely conceals the bitterness seething beneath it.

Her foil in A.R. Gurney's entertaining, if flawed, new play, "Crazy Mary," is a distant cousin played by Kristine Nielsen, whose euphoria at discovering a new life in a sanitarium gushes forth from every pore, threatening to overwhelm her and everyone in her path.

Together, Weaver and Nielsen form a dynamic pair of polar opposites—one free to live her life however she wants to and brutally unhappy with the decisions she has made, the other confined to a mental hospital who's suddenly enraptured by the wide open world in front of her.

Vexing motivations

The two actresses breathe so much life into their roles that you almost overlook the deficiencies in Gurney's script, particularly the vexing motivations behind some of the action and the surprising lack of character development. It is glaringly noticeable when Weaver and Nielsen are offstage, leaving the thinly written supporting cast to fill time until they return.

Weaver, whose theater credentials include a Tony Award nomination in 1985 for "Hurlyburly," plays Lydia, a divorced real estate agent from Buffalo, whose biggest regret seems to be "crossing the tracks" to marry a Polish musician, forever dooming her to a life of bourgeois striving.

With her shoulder-length hair pulled primly back and white coat tied protectively around her waist, Lydia is the portrait of an uptight, miserable White Anglo-Saxon Protestant from the suburbs—a favorite subject in Gurney's work.

Patronizing

Weaver settles into the character naturally, cocking her head patronizingly as she reels off her son's accomplishments at Harvard University and grimacing uncomfortably when any real emotions are shown—especially by Mary.

Nielsén, by contrast, is a whirling dervish of nonconformity, the anti-WASP who revels in throwing a mirror up to Lydia's insecurities and forcing her to confront her inner pain and jealousies.

Mary does not start out this way, though. In one of the more head-scratching moments of Gurney's play, she switches overnight from a comatose vegetable to a bolt of kinetic energy, supposedly drawn out by Lydia's son, Skip, who reminds her of a lover from 30 years ago.

SIGOURNEY/13

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School-themed movies . . .

From page 11

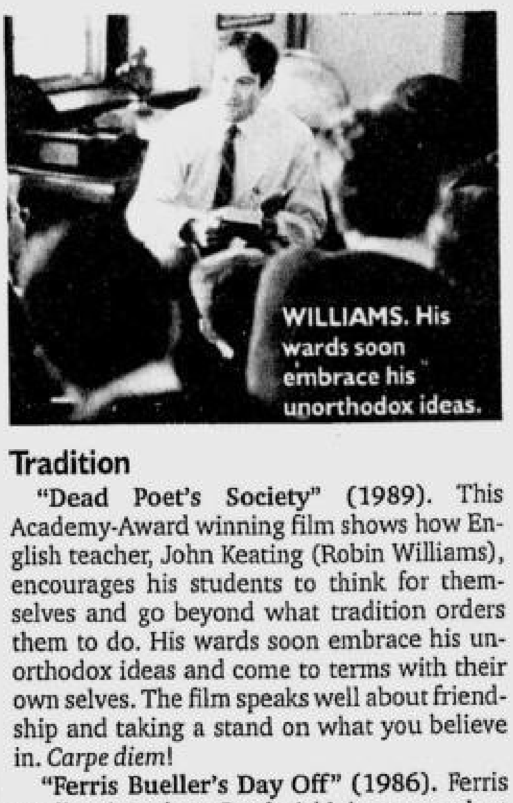
win back her man. Along the way, she proves to her detractors that there's more to her pretty, blonde looks than perky pep. So, bend and snap!

"Never Been Kissed" (1999). Young Chicago Sun Times copy editor Josie Gellar (Drew Barrymore) goes undercover in her former high school to do a report on how teenagers are behaving these days. But, going back to school means reliving her painful memories of high school life! Looking back, don't we feel guilty about the indulgent name-calling we used to indulge in? *Tabachoy, nognog*, the list goes on . . . But the experience also gives Josie the rare chance to correct her past mistakes.

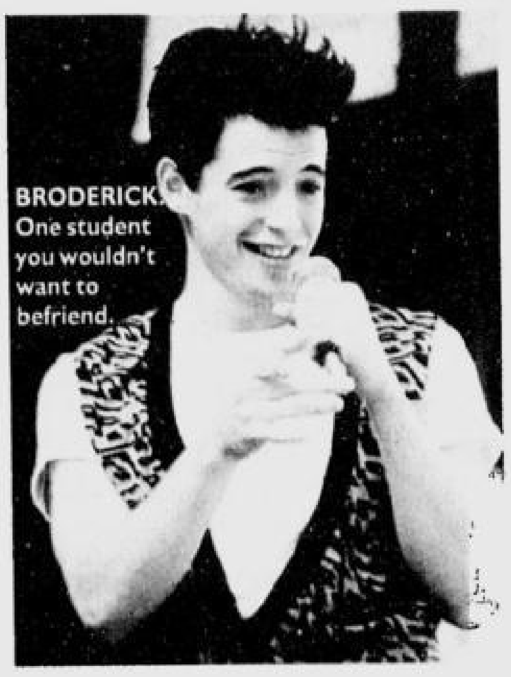
BARRYMORE. Given a chance to correct her past mistakes.

"Clueless" (1995). If you think being rich and popular in a Beverly Hills high school is cool, think again. Cher Horowitz (Alicia Silverstone) is all that—but she's also "clueless" about what's truly important in life! Soon, she realizes that there's more to teenage life than classy clothes and popularity. —As if!

SILVERSTONE. Learns that there's more to teenage life than classy clothes and popularity.



WILLIAMS. His wards soon embrace his unorthodox ideas.



BRODERICK. One student you wouldn't want to befriend.

Tradition

"Dead Poet's Society" (1989). This Academy-Award winning film shows how English teacher, John Keating (Robin Williams), encourages his students to think for themselves and go beyond what tradition orders them to do. His wards soon embrace his unorthodox ideas and come to terms with their own selves. The film speaks well about friendship and taking a stand on what you believe in. *Carpe diem*!

"Ferris Bueller's Day Off" (1986). Ferris Bueller (Matthew Broderick) is one student you wouldn't want to befriend! Why? He's *bulakbol* personified. But, he learns valuable lessons along the way: "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it!"

CARP 19 YEARS

Agrarian reform is not about land distribution alone. It is about raising fellow Filipinos from depths of destituteness and absence of hope. It is about sharing. It is about overcoming greed and lust for power.

The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) has, in the past nineteen years, attempted to change the feudal make-up of the countrysides by freeing farmers from years of bondage. It has tried to break up the structure of patronage by affording those who till the land golden opportunities for self-determination, enterprise, and growth.

In this battle against want and poverty, the program has lost some, and won scores. Today, CARP has transformed…

New stewards of land

- 2.201 million agrarian reform beneficiaries have become new owners of 3.826 million hectares of agricultural land nationwide. It has also secured the tenurial status of 1.169 million tenant-farmers in 1.632 million hectares of land.

Tools for Productivity

- A total of P62.31-B was mobilized from international funding institutions to construct farm-to-market roads, bridges, irrigation, post-harvest facilities, and to provide potable water, power, credit as well as trainings and livelihood programs in agrarian reform communities.

Success Indicators

Independent impact studies on the CARP were undertaken from 2000 to 2003 by experts from the Institute of Agrarian and Rural Development Studies of the University of the Philippines, the Philippine Institute of Development Studies (PIDS) and the Institute of Philippine Culture (IPC) of the Ateneo de Manila, which showed the following significant findings.

- **Changes in tenurial relations**
  Increase in owner-cultivatorship, from 29% in 1990 to 40% in 2000 and declines in share tenancy, from 23% in 1990 to 17% in 2000, indicate improvement in asset reform under CARP, consistent with the land to the tiller principle of agrarian reform. The ARBs' productivity in pesos per hectare of land is double than non-ARBs.
- **Higher farm investments and productivity by ARBs**
  Agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) and landowners whose land had been covered by CARP invest more on farm assets. Secured landownership bestows confidence and willingness to invest by both landowners and tillers.
- **ARBs have a lower incidence of poverty than non-ARBs**
  A decline in poverty incidence from 47.6% to 45.2% among ARB households between 1990 and 2000. In contrast, there is an increase in the proportion of poor households among non-ARBs, from 55.1% in 1990 to 56.4% in 2000.
- **Contribution to peace and order**
  Agrarian reform in some of the study sites contributed to the reduction of social conflicts and increased peace and order in the areas.

The Results Monitoring and Evaluation study on Agrarian Reform Infrastructure Support Project (ARISP) - Phase II (ARISP-II) also showed significant improvement in the income and living standard of the beneficiaries from 2001 to 2004, such as:

- Household incomes in ARCs covered by the project increased by 20.1%
- Productivity measured in terms of palay yield in ARCs with functional ARISP II-supported irrigation system has improved from 2.5 metric tons per hectare in 2004;
- A reduction in transport cost through road projects is recorded in 16 ARISP-II ARCs by 38% in 14 ARCs.
- Travel time for people has also been reduced in 24 ARCs by almost half in 24 ARCs.
  In addition, positive gains were recorded in 10 provinces covered by Agrarian Reform Community Development Project (ARCDP), a World Bank-funded project implemented by DAR to help ARBs in 102 ARCs, which include:
- Total nominal income of all respondents increased by 32.4%
- Poverty incidence among peoples' organizations and ARBs is lower and the proportion of respondents who have positive perceptions about the socio-economic condition is higher in ARCDP sites (61%)

Community Connectivity

- These rural investment opportunities benefit the 1,859 Agrarian Reform Communities (ARCs) through the strong alliance of 5,430 farmers' organizations developed by DAR throughout the country.

With the commitment of Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to pursue CARP beyond 2008, fully supported by local and international interest groups led by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) and Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), the DAR, working hand in hand with the beneficiaries, will continue to rise to the challenge of achieving collective prosperity – with the people and for the people.

Agrarian reform is the beneficiaries' biggest hope to sustain peace and progress in the countryside. It is the DAR's privilege to preserve its vigor.

"There have been success stories in the 19 years of CARP implementation. The Church's social teachings always stress the importance of equitable distribution of lands." —*CBCP President Archbishop Angel Lagdameo*

"Agrarian reform in the Philippines has achieved significant gains and continues to respond to challenges encompassing both rural and human development." — *CIRDAP*

We Attest!

Stories of farmers becoming successful entrepreneurs are aplenty. With the help of the foreign and local partner agencies, agrarian reform beneficiaries now reap the fruits of their hardwork.

"The tiger grass project of the DAR and the Asian Development Bank was truly a manna from heaven. All my siblings were able to go to school from my soft broom earnings. All the tiger grass growers and soft broom-makers in our community benefited from the project." - Randy Dangle – Puguil, Santol, La Union

"I am now earning an average of P1-M per harvest. The biggest share comes from the sale of mangoes, which are exported to Hongkong by my clients, Philharvest and Sucrex Mango Corporation. I am expanding my market to Japan and United States. I don't think that I'd stop helping to empower more farmers." – Eriberto de Ocampo – Cabaruan, Naguilian, Isabela

"Joining DAR's agri trade fairs boosted my marketing skills. It brought my calamansi nectar product to many places from Manila, Cagayan, Ilocos Sur and La Union." – Corazon Edralin – Malasin, Aurora, Isabela

"With the help of Mahatao Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association, I was able to avail marketing assistance from DAR for my turmeric powder business. It even won the "Rookie Product of the Year: Food Category" in 2005 Agraryo Trade Fair held at SM Megamall. It was an opportunity to expose my product to a wider market." – Malia Pableo - Pantayan, Mahatao, Batanes

"After attending the meat processing seminar led by DAR, I started to venture into the business for me and for La Concepcion Consumers Cooperative. We now produce an average of 50 kilograms of meat per week, which gives us an earning of Php 7,000 a week. Our coop was able to generate jobs for the people in our community." – Melinda Ramos – Pilar, Bataan

"I share the farm technologies I learned through seminars to my fellow agrarian reform beneficiaries. Today, it's not only the farmers in Naic who are productive and earning, even the tricycle drivers earn because the frequent buyers from other communities who buy our harvests in bulk hire their services." – Joselito Tibayan – Palangue, Naic, Cavite

"We are thankful that the DAR organized the Carretonan Multi-Purpose Cooperative, one of the most progressive agrarian reform cooperatives in the country, which successfully pooled an asset of P10-M in just five years. The candle-making business provided jobs to women who used to depend only on their husbands to support their families. Now, we have a higher level of self-worth because we can help in raising the standard of living of our children. It's our turn to savor the good life." – Lala Mercado– Batac ARC, Calatagan, Batangas

"We are very grateful to the DAR's President Diosdado Macapagal Agrarian Scholarship Program. It gives poor children of farmers access to college education. We are happy because we were able to graduate with honors." – Jasmin and Ellen Hibay – Sorsogon

"Thanks to DAR's Agrarian Reform Community Project as well as to the local government of Quinapondan. DARs project is such a big help to me and my family. If not for the irrigation project, farm-to-market road and technical assistance on appropriate farming technology, we cannot accomplish so much." – Lito Machica – Quinapondan, Eastern Samar

"Before, knee-deep flood not only destroyed our homes and livelihood but also put our lives in danger. The rehabilitation of the protection dike reduced the incidence of flooding in Awao agrarian reform community. The assistance of the Agrarian Reform Infrastructure Support Project Phase 2 also included livelihood projects to augment our income such as rice seed and vegetable production, tilapia production and goat dispersal." – Moises Bacolod – Monkayo, Compostela Valley

"Kapag farmer ka, ginhawa ka!" I was inspired to work hard with the land awarded and support services provided by DAR. At 64, I still reap an annual farm net income of P180,000 from my average yield of 600 cavans of rice per annum. My rice mill also earns a minimum of P5,000 a month. I also own a thresher, solar dryer, mechanical dryer, irrigation pump and a delivery truck. Most of all, my children are all degree holders." – Miguel Bobis – Ocampo, Camarines Sur.

SULONG AGRARYO!

SENTRO ANG TAO!

DAR

DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM

Gov't working to get Pinoy workers home from Syria

THE GOVERNMENT IS NEGOTIATING the repatriation of 35 undocumented domestic helpers, some of them rape victims, from Syria following the discovery of the illegal recruitment of and trafficking in Filipinos there.

Speaking on Vice President Noli de Castro's radio program, "Para Sa Iyo Bayan," Foreign Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Esteban Conejos said the Philippine Embassy in Lebanon had started negotiations with the Syrian employers of the undocumented workers to obtain their release from their job contracts.

The Philippines does not maintain an embassy in Syria.

Conejos said that while the Philippines had an honorary consul in Syria who was a national of that country, this did not guarantee the cases of the domestic helpers would be resolved.

"That is why we instructed the embassy in Lebanon to send a team to Syria to start the negotiations, including the payment by the Philippine government of their return tickets and other fees necessary for their repatriation," Conejos said.

Conejos also reiterated the ban on the deployment of workers to Syria because the Philippines does not have an embassy there to look after their welfare.

"*Malaking risk talaga ang pumasok sa Syria dahil wala tayong embahada doon o konsulado. Wala silang proteksiyon kaya hindi sila dapat pumunta doon*(There is a big risk in going to Syria because we don't have an embassy or consulate there. They [workers] wouldn't be protected, that's why they shouldn't go there)," Conejos said.

He said the foreign counterparts of local recruitment agencies were found to be the culprits in the cases in Syria.

He said these foreign agencies usually sold the Filipino workers' contracts to other employers.

He said the Philippine government would have to pay for the remainder of the contracts of the 35 workers should these be allowed to be cut short.

Susan Ople, president of the Blas F. Ople Policy Center, a nonprofit organization, said her office had provided assistance for the return of three domestic helpers from Syria and was working on two other cases.

One of the three cases was that of Alicia Reyes, 35, who signed a contract with FGC Aggregates here to work as a domestic helper in Dubai but who ended up in Oman and then Syria. Reyes was interviewed on the radio program.

She said she left the Philippines for Dubai via Bahrain on Feb. 9, 2006, to work as a domestic helper.

When she got to Dubai, she said her agent there whom she described as a "maniac" sold her contract to someone in Oman for 2,500 dirham (almost $3,000).

But before she could begin working in Oman, her Dubai agent bought her contract from her Omani employer and sold it to another employer in Syria who paid him $2,500.

It was in Syria that Reyes sought the help of Ople, a daughter of the late Labor Secretary Blas F. Ople and a former labor undersecretary herself, who referred Reyes' case to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Reyes said she was paid much less than was provided for in the contract that she signed with the recruitment agency in the Philippines.

Cynthia D. Balana

ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY
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NOTES

Important Dates

Issuance of Application Forms for Freshman and Transfer Applicants
June 18 to August 10, 2007

Deadline for Submission of Completed Application Forms and Registration for the Ateneo College Entrance Test (ACET) for Freshman Applicants
August 17, 2007, Friday

Registration for the Ateneo College Entrance Test for Transfer Applicants
(at Ateneo, Loyola Heights Campus)
November 19 to December 15, 2007

(Transfer applicants from provincial schools may register for the ACET at our Provincial Testing Centers in Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Naga and Zamboanga)

Deadline for Submission of Completed Applications for Transfer Applicants
(at Ateneo, Loyola Heights Campus)
April 18, 2008, Friday

Scholarship

Scholarship grants are available for financially challenged students. Scholarship/Financial Aid Questionnaire must be secured and submitted together with the Application Form for Admission.

Notice of Decisions

Letters of acceptance, non-acceptance or placement on the waiting list will be sent to each freshman applicant by January 2008. If no letter is received by mid-March, please contact the Office of Admission and Aid for the application decision and subsequent instructions.

Decisions on transfer applications will be released in the first week of May 2008.

PROVINCIAL TESTING CENTERS

ALBAY	St. Agnes' Academy, Legaspi City
BATANGAS	Canossa Academy, Lipa City St. Bridget College, Batangas City
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Burgos witnesses fail to appear at probe

By Alcuin Papa

TWO VITAL WITNESSES IN THE ABDUCTION of activist Jonas Burgos failed to appear before police last Friday to identify suspects.

But Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-National Capital Region (CIDG-NCR) director Senior Supt. Joel Coronel said the no-show would not affect their investigation.

Coronel said the two witnesses were employees of a food stall located close to the spot where Burgos was reportedly taken by armed men inside the Ever Gotesco mall in Fairview, Quezon City, on April 28. The young Burgos, son of the late press freedom icon Jose "Joe" Burgos, is an agriculturist allied with a militant farmers group in Bulacan.

According to their employers, the two witnesses took a leave from their jobs. Coronel could not say if the two had gone into hiding.

"We are coordinating with the management to find them," Coronel said.

The two witnesses would have been shown pictures of soldiers belonging to the 56th Infantry Battalion based in Norzagaray, Bulacan, as well as other mug shots in an attempt to identify Burgos' abductors.

Coronel said investigators still had something to work on. "We have one other witness."

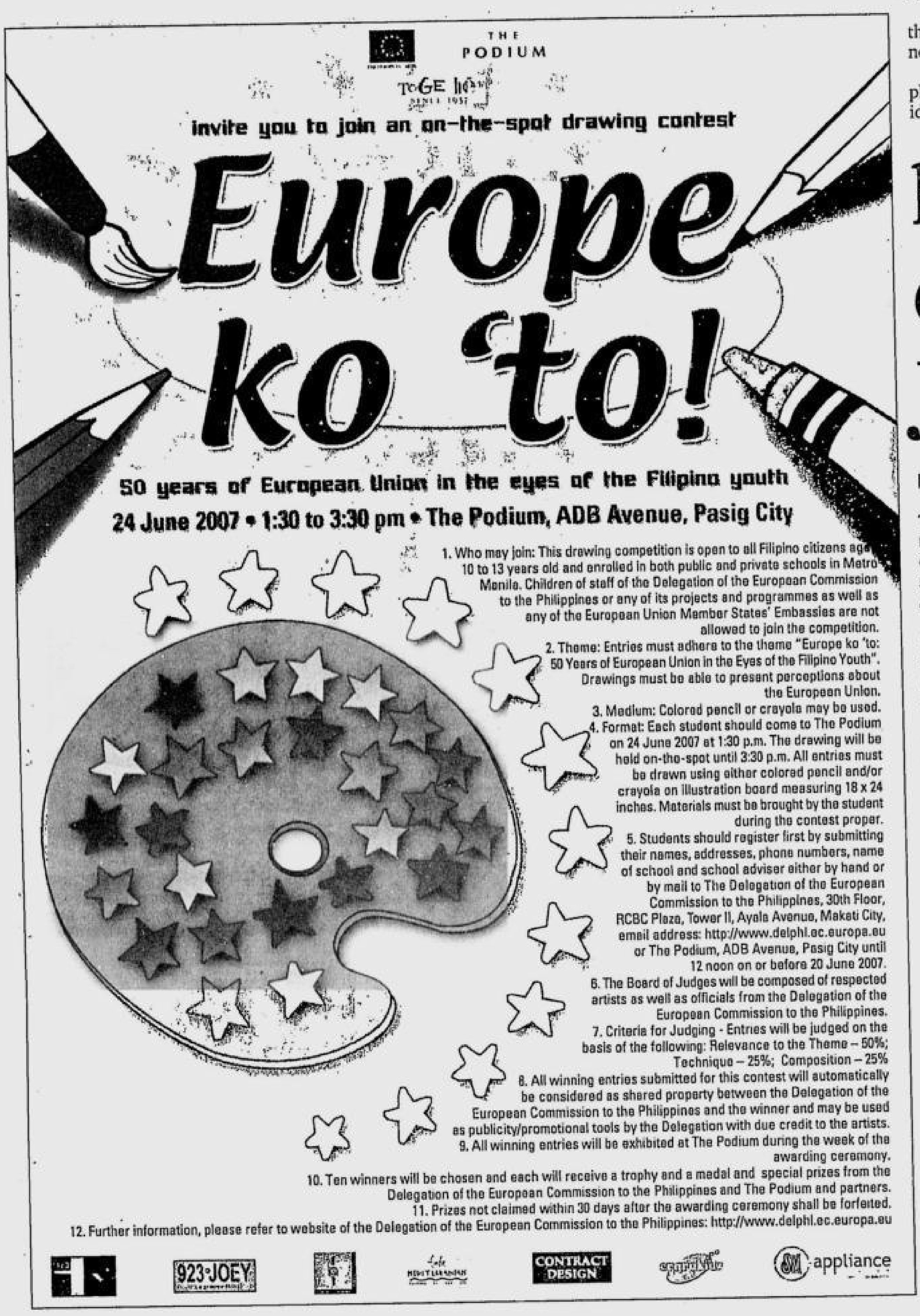
But the unidentified witness, also employed at the mall, had reportedly failed to identify any of the 56th IB soldiers.

Aside from that, Coronel said they were developing additional leads provided by the Burgos family but declined to give any details.

Police traced the license plates on the vehicle used in the abduction to an impounded vehicle parked at the 56th IB camp.

Officials and soldiers of the 56th IB had given statements to the police. They were Lieutenant Colonels Melquiades Feliciano and Noel Clemen, both former battalion commanders of the 56th IB; Lt. Col. Edison Caga, Cpl. Castro Bugalon and Pfc. Jose Villena. They said the license plate had been either lost or stolen from their camp. The PNP said the soldiers were still part of their investigation.

In an appearance before the Commission on Human Rights last Friday, Maj. Gen. Delfin Bangit, chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), denied Burgos was in their "order of battle."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2. Theme: Entries must adhere to the theme "Europe ko 'to: 50 Years of European Union in the Eyes of the Filipino Youth". Drawings must be able to present perceptions about the European Union.
3. Medium: Colored pencil or crayola may be used.
4. Format: Each student should come to The Podium on 24 June 2007 at 1:30 p.m. The drawing will be held on-the-spot until 3:30 p.m. All entries must be drawn using either colored pencil and/or crayola on illustration board measuring 18 x 24 inches. Materials must be brought by the student during the contest proper.
5. Students should register first by submitting their names, addresses, phone numbers, name of school and school adviser either by hand or by mail to The Delegation of the European Commission to the Philippines, 30th Floor, RCBC Plaza, Tower II, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, email address: http://www.delphl.ec.europa.eu or The Podium, ADB Avenue, Pasig City until 12 noon on or before 20 June 2007.
6. The Board of Judges will be composed of respected artists as well as officials from the Delegation of the European Commission to the Philippines.
7. Criteria for Judging - Entries will be judged on the basis of the following: Relevance to the Theme – 50%; Technique – 25%; Composition – 25%
8. All winning entries submitted for this contest will automatically be considered as shared property between the Delegation of the European Commission to the Philippines and the winner and may be used as publicity/promotional tools by the Delegation with due credit to the artists.
9. All winning entries will be exhibited at The Podium during the week of the awarding ceremony.
10. Ten winners will be chosen and each will receive a trophy and a medal and special prizes from the Delegation of the European Commission to the Philippines and The Podium and partners.
11. Prizes not claimed within 30 days after the awarding ceremony shall be forfeited.
12. Further information, please refer to website of the Delegation of the European Commission to the Philippines: http://www.delphl.ec.europa.eu

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Bishops rap GMA's commutation of Jalosjos sentence

By Jerome Aning

THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF the Philippines yesterday condemned Malacañang's decision to commute the double life sentence meted out to child-rapist Romeo Jalosjos.

Rodolfo Diamante, executive secretary of the CBCP-Episcopal Commission on Prison Pastoral Care, said the commutation clearly demonstrated the "bias of the Arroyo administration for known political allies."

Diamante said there were more deserving prisoners, sick and much older than Jalosjos, who should be granted such a privilege but the government had not acted on them.

President Macapagal-Arroyo commuted the two life terms of Jalosjos to a prison term of 16 years, three months and three days, paving the way for the release of the former lawmaker convicted of raping an 11-year-old girl in 1996 to as early as next year.

Diamante agreed the commutation, as other critics claimed, was "payment for electoral services rendered."

"Obviously it's political because how come Jalosjos was given that privilege [that was] denied the others who were more deserving," said Diamante in a statement issued by the CBCP.

"There's something wrong here. They exercise the executive privilege only to those who are giving benefits to the administration," he added.

Diamante said that while the commission recognized the presidential power to grant executive clemency, he said such authority should be used to give justice to people regardless of their position in society.

He also stressed the President's move was a "big blow" to the justice system, adding, "It shows that as long as you have the power and influence, you're given privilege, and the justice system has been criticized as always being tilted in favor of the rich and powerful."

Diamante said he was sure there were many other convicts who had been truly and completely rehabilitated and who deserved commutation but did not have influential backers.

"We would appreciate it very much if the President will look into these more deserving people without certain kinds of power and influence to be given such kind of executive privilege," he said.

Jalosjos, 66, a former Zamboanga del Norte congressman, was convicted in 1996 of raping an 11-year-old girl and received an additional 15 years for each of the six counts of acts of lasciviousness he was found guilty of. He has so far served 13 years.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Jalosjos was among 10 convicts whose sentences were reduced by Ms Arroyo upon the recommendation of the Board of Pardons and Parole with the approval of the Department of Justice on April 30.

Ermita said Jalosjos deserved to have his sentence commuted because he was old and sickly.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye also defended Ms Arroyo's move, saying there was nothing irregular with granting Jalosjos a commutation of sentence since this had also been done for other convicts.

Bunye was earlier quoted as saying that the decision to commute Jalosjos' sentence was a way to decongest the prisons.

Diamante's superior, Commission Chair Palawan Bishop Pedro Arigo, branded Bunye's statement as "surprising" and "so shallow," adding that commutation of sentences may, in a way, decongest jails but this should depend on the convict's attitude towards reformation.

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Justice chief charged with ignoring evidence

By Volt Contreras

THE LOCAL PARTNER OF THE Chinese fishing crew charged with poaching in the Tubbataha Reef in December last year has filed countercharges before the Ombudsman against Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and the park rangers who accosted them.

Nixon Edora, operations manager of South Pacific Intermarketing Corp., said Gonzalez ignored evidence that the Chinese didn't enter the marine park and that they were merely hauling seafood bought from licensed fish pens in Tawi-Tawi.

In recently junking a petition to have the charges reviewed, Gonzalez "allow(ed) himself to be influenced" by environmental groups and other parties including Luli Arroyo, President Macapagal-Arroyo's daughter, Edora said in his complaint filed on June 12.

"The secretary admitted (in an INQUIRER report on Jan. 26) that Luli called him up and told him that she was not happy to see alleged Chinese poachers go scot-free," Edora said.

"(He) must have allowed himself to be influenced by a group whose interests are to get donations from the World Wildlife Fund so (it) would have something to feast on and finance only small portions of Tubbataha protection projects," he said.

In a separate complaint, Edora said the five armed park rangers, who stopped and boarded the Chinese vessel Hoi Wan on Dec. 21, 2006, forced its 30-member crew to enter Tubbataha waters and then tried to extort $3,000 and satellite phones from the ship's captain.

Edora said the rangers should be charged with piracy, extortion, or frustrated robbery, while Gonzales should be suspended and charged with violation of the antigraft law.

The SPIC manager sought relief at the Ombudsman after Gonzalez denied on June 4 the crew's petition to review the charges filed against them by environment and fisheries officials and the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development.

The cases are pending before local courts in Palawan. The Chinese respondents have been granted bail.

Edora said Gonzalez dismissed the petition for review, by then already pending in the justice department five months, in a one-page resolution without any explanation.

Park rangers intercepted the Hoi Wan, then chartered by the SPIC, on its way to Hong Kong from Bongao, Tawi-Tawi. Edora insisted that the vessel was in a narrow channel off Cagayancillo, Palawan, when it was stopped.

Confiscated from the vessel were live fish that included endangered *mamengs* or Napoleon wrasse.

The crew headed by Capt. Huang Yaliu has denied the charges, saying the memory bank of the ship's global positioning system (GPS) would show that it was cruising some 11 km from Tubbataha when it was intercepted.

Price of rice to remain stable–NFA

By Amy R. Remo

THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) has assured the public the price of rice would remain stable despite the recent increase in the prices of oil, utilities and other commodities.

NFA Administrator Jessup P. Navarro said the NFA's intensive distribution of rice had contributed significantly to making the price of commercial rice affordable and keeping it stable in the last five months.

Navarro said the NFA had a sufficient rice inventory with stocks at the ready for distribution to ensure the timely supply of the staple in the market.

"With these strategies, the NFA is able to preempt any unwarranted price spiral," he said.

Navarro said the stable rice prices had contributed to the slowing down of the inflation rate for food, which eased to 2.6 percent in May from 2.7 percent in April.

Rice, he added, comprised 20 and 9 percent of the Filipinos' food and consumer basket, respectively.

"Since rice is considered a political commodity, its affordability to the ordinary consumer reflects stability on the political front. It helps usher in the continuous growth of the country's economy," he said.

Retail price of regular milled rice has been monitored at an average P22.21 a kilo, while the well-milled variety average P24.24 a kilo. The NFA sells well-milled rice at P18 a kilo.

The demand for NFA rice has been high the last five months since it is priced lower by P4-P6 a kilo than the regular and well-milled commercial rice being sold in the market.

Navarro said the NFA expected to exceed its target rice distribution volume for the first half of the year, as demand for government rice continued to remain high.

Prelate: Mining OK but guard against disaster

TURNING THE PHILIPPINES INTO A MINING country by 2010 entails the responsibility of making sure that the environment is not degraded, said Bishop Reynaldo Evangelista of Boac of Marinduque.

"We have sad and bitter experiences due to mining. We are still reeling from the Marcopper disaster years ago," Evangelista said, referring to the March 1998 mining accident in Marinduque province in which an estimated 1.6-million cubic meters of mine tailings from the Marcopper site spilled into the Boac River.

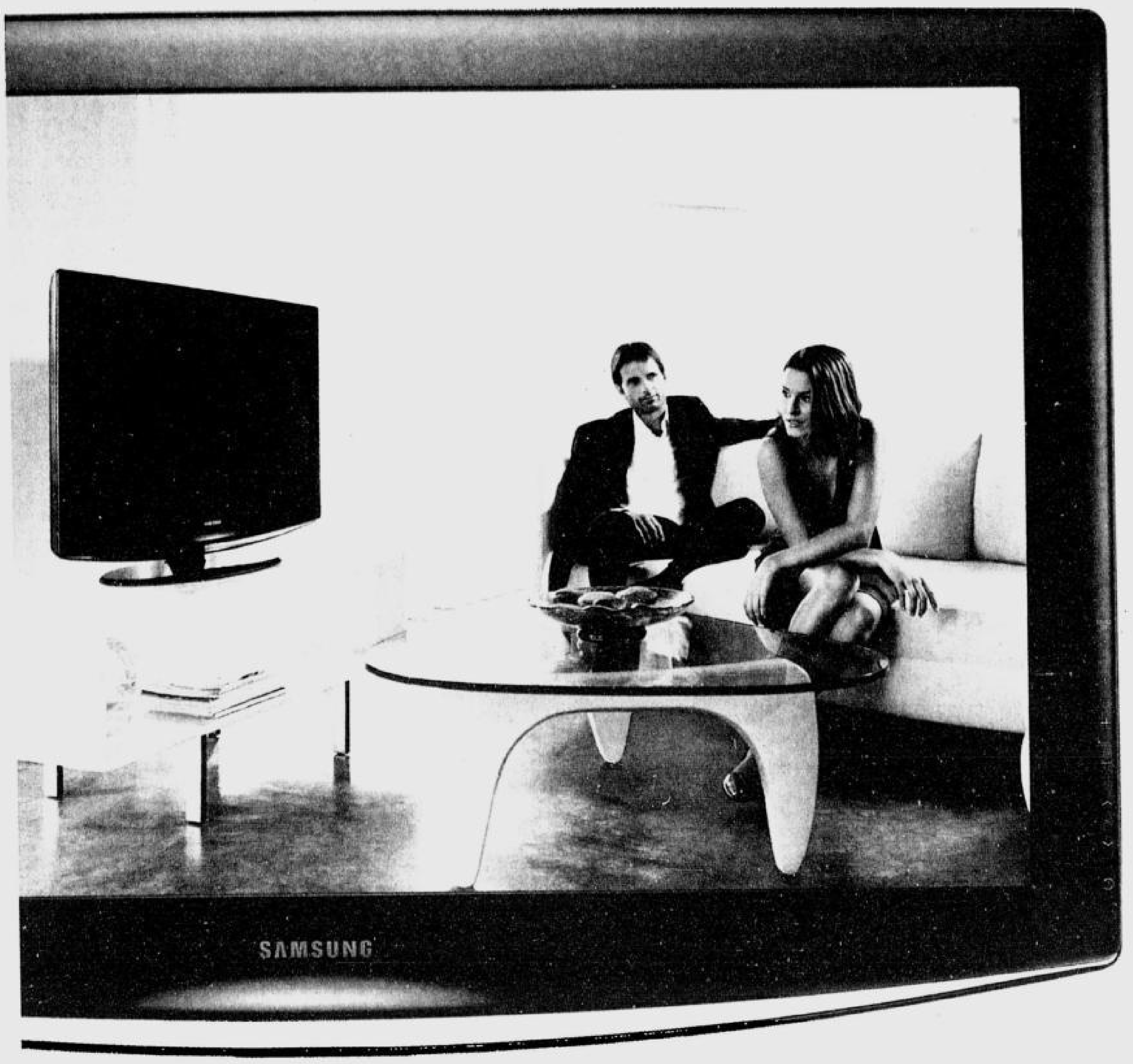
"There shouldn't just be mining activities, after which the mining site is abandoned, often leaving a looming environmental disaster," the bishop said in an interview over the Church-owned Radio Veritas yesterday.

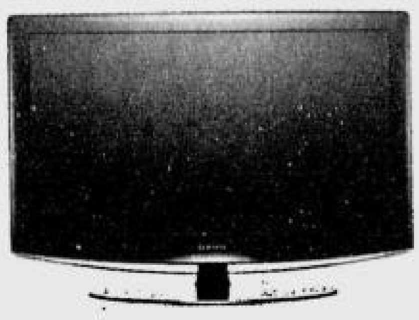
The Chamber of Mines said the year 2010 would be significant because most of the 24 priority minerals development projects would be on stream by then.

Evangelista clarified that the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines was not totally against mining.

"What we're after is for the government to assure everybody that there will be enough standards to preserve the environment," he said.

Jerome Aning





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RM Award bonds father ...

From page A1

she said. (Her winning piece was published in the Youngblood section of the INQUIRER, March 31, 2007.-ED.)

She also said that while her family had "always been close," the RM Awards had reinforced that closeness.

Jessica is virtually as old as her father's career in politics, having been born six days before he won his first term as mayor of Naga, Camarines Sur, in 1988.

She said she spent the first 10 years of her life in City Hall and was witness to the quality of her father's leadership.

'OK with anybody'

Among her father's traits that Jessica admires most are his unconditional concern for his family and constituents and his ability to get along with everyone: "He never discriminates. He is OK with anybody, anything, anywhere."

Despite a disqualification case that harped on his Chinese lineage and questioned his citizenship, Jesse Robredo won a sixth term as mayor of Naga in the May elections. The effectiveness of his governance may be gauged by the 150 local and international awards for local administration that he has earned, as well as the accolades for Naga—the "most cost-effective city" and the "most business-friendly city."

For all that, Jesse is as "normal" a father as he can be, said his daughter. "He makes time for us, and he is always there for us. We are brought to and from the house. But at home, my mother is the strict one," she said, giving him a sidelong glance.

Jessica is the eldest in a brood of three girls. The other two are Tricia, who turns 13 in July, and Jillian, 7.

Jesse hastened to say with a laugh that, skilled as he was in management, the six-year age difference among his daughters was not planned.

Jessica is pursuing a degree in engineering at the Ateneo de Manila University.

She said growing up in Camarines Sur and then studying in Quezon City was actually not difficult because her parents, particularly her father, had always encouraged her and her siblings to be independent.

Jesse said that although he and his wife Maria Leonora (or Lenny) were, like typical parents, occasionally fretful that their daughter was so far from them, they trusted her enough.

"We know that she can take care of herself. We are not really worried because we are confident that we reared her properly," he said.

He confessed that he was actually quite proud that Jessica chose him as the subject of her essay.

Most important

"[In the Robredo clan], the most important is family," he said. "I think the most important faith is the faith in you of those in your own home and not of those outside it. That is why when your child says you are excellent, that is more valuable than when others tell you [the same thing]."

Jesse said the prestige of the RM Award had opened doors of opportunity for him as a public servant. "People are made aware of the things we do and replicate the programs that are really good and effective," he said.

But it likewise left the door open for political controversy, including the attempts to dislodge him from the mayoralty with his opponents drawing the citizenship card at every turn.

Jesse said he had taken these things in stride as part of Philippine politics. "My mind-set and attitude now are to face the choice I made. I do not complain because I chose this, so I will face it as long as nobody gets hurt," he said.

Jessica confessed that her father's experience had left her with a bland taste for politics.

"One in the family is more than enough," she said when asked if she planned to enter politics after graduating from college.

She added: "There is a Ramon Magsaysay mind-set of making a difference in the lives of other people. But I can still do that in a different field, without entering politics. Politics is too chaotic for me. It is not really for me. Maybe my siblings, but not me."

Jesse said that if anyone deserved an RM Award, it would be his father who, although blind, ironically taught him to see.

"Iyong tatay ko pinamulat sa amin ang mga tamang paniwala," (My father opened our eyes to the right beliefs)," he said, emphasizing that these were the same beliefs that had helped him balance his family and political career.

Jose Chan Robredo, 84, is afflicted with *Retinitis pigmentosa* or night blindness, a hereditary eye disease where the photoreceptor cells in the retina deteriorate. (Photoreceptor cells capture and process light entering the eye. Their deterioration results in progressive loss of vision.)

He completely lost his eyesight when he was 39. Jesse was only 4 years old then, and he grew up seeing his father overcome the disability and proving that there was nothing that could not be achieved through hard work.

The son proudly recalled that even without his sight, Jose Robredo was a mechanic effectively utilizing his sharp senses of hearing and of touch.

Extraordinary

"He is a very, very extraordinary man," Jesse said. "When my siblings and I were still children, he made us read to him from the instruction manuals and he would proceed to fix an engine as ably as if he could see. He also made trawls. He could not see, but he still made them with the help of some carpenters. I can never forget that because I was always at the shop."

Jose Robredo had a trawling business called Fishing Wealth, since closed, where he designed his own trawlers and repaired his boats' engines himself.

Jesse said that apart from important lessons in business, he and his four siblings "saw" other lessons from their father's example: "No job is easy. Never refuse a job that is necessary. Always be considerate of other people."

These, he said, have helped him rear his own children properly and serve as mayor effectively without yielding to the lure of abusing his power.

"Power has a way of changing people," he said. "A politician should never forget that when he started, he had big hopes for his constituents and he had clear motives that he worked hard for. He should still be the same individual when he finishes his term."

He said that he counted himself blessed that he had his wife to give him a reality check: "My wife does not treat me as a mayor but as a husband. To her what is wrong, is wrong. There are few gray areas with her. It is always black or white—and that, to me, is the best way of looking at things."

As for his and Jessica's shared distinction as recipients of RM Awards, Jesse said it had posed to both of them a constant challenge to strive to be better as a student, a child, a spouse, a sibling, a government official—or simply a human being.

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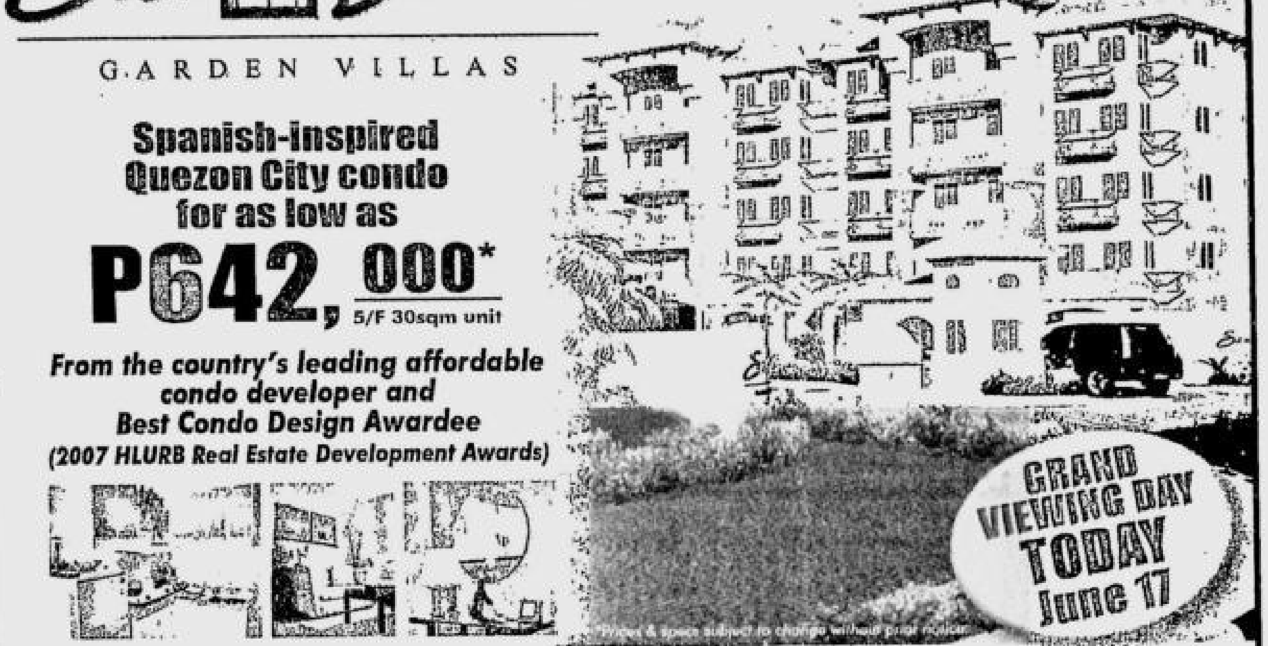

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REDUCED WATER RATES FOR MANILA WATER CUSTOMERS EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007

Manila Water

Continuing economic growth and strengthening of the peso versus other currencies as well as the proper management of borrowings by the Company have resulted to a **further reduction** in the Foreign Currency Differential Adjustment (FCDA) by **P0.09 centavos per cubic meter** from **- P0.28** per cubic meter to **- P0.37** per cubic meter, effective July 1, 2007. FCDA is based on an exchange rate of **P46.814** per US Dollar.

The further reduction in FCDA was approved by the **METROPOLITAN WATERWORKS AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM** thru Board Resolution No. 2007-112 dated 14 June 2007, confirming MWSS Regulatory Office Resolution No. 07-006-CA dated 13 June 2007.

FCDA is a tariff mechanism that is adjusted upwards to recover losses if the peso depreciates and downwards if the peso appreciates against other currencies. Manila Water has to continue paying for the foreign exchange-denominated concession fees to the MWSS, as well as loans required for its service expansion and improvement.

Manila Water Company continues to embark on an aggressive service expansion program to reach the fringe areas of Taguig, Antipolo, San Mateo, Rodriguez, Cainta, Taytay and Angono, in Rizal Province. Manila Water has also started providing water supply to the towns of Baras, Binangonan and Jalajala, also in Rizal. Currently, water supply projects have already commenced in the town of Teresa, also in Rizal. Further service improvement and rehabilitation programs are also being undertaken in areas with 100% water coverage which include the southeastern part of Quezon City, Mandaluyong City, San Juan, Marikina City, Pasig City, Pateros, Manila (San Andres and Sta. Ana only) and Makati City (east of South Super Highway).

Likewise, as part of the Company's mandate, Manila Water is expanding its wastewater operations and sanitation services all over the East Concession area to ensure the protection of the environment. Manila Water has recently completed the construction of two major septage treatment plants in Taguig and San Mateo.

To ensure the sustainability and reliability of water services in the East Zone, Manila Water is now exploring potential new water sources as well as implementing programs for service continuity in the event of calamities and other natural disasters.

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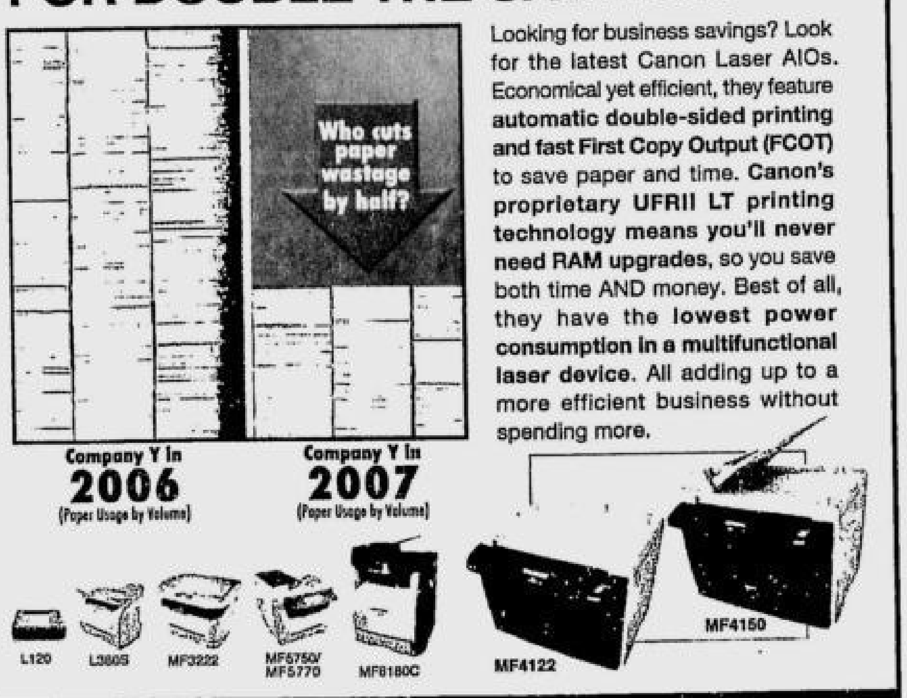
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Generals pay tribute to enlisted men fathers

By Tarra Quismundo

MILITARY GENERALS TAKE time out today to honor their fathers, many of them simple enlisted men who struggled and inspired them to earn their stars.

In time for Father's Day, the Philippine Air Force will confer recognition awards for the first time on former soldiers whose children grew up to become generals in the Army, Navy and Air Force.

Dubbed "A Tribute to Airmen," the awards will cap daylong festivities at Airman's Barrio, a housing project for enlisted men in Pasay City.

Greater heights

"This event hopes to inspire airmen and airwomen to aim for greater heights. For one, becoming a soldier is not the end. Your son or daughter can surpass what you did. That's the message," said Lt. Gen. Horacio Tolentino, PAF commanding general and son of the late 2nd Lt. Asterio Tolentino, an airman with the then 551st Aviation Engineering Squadron for 30 years.

The Father's Day event was apparently inspired by the story of Tolentino himself, who came from a poor soldier's family and rose to become commanding general.

"But the people who thought of it were those around me. They wanted to give tribute to all the others who came from Airman's Barrio and had sons who became generals," the 55-year-old Air Force chief told the INQUIRER.

Eleven former enlisted men, including Tolentino's father, were chosen to receive the award this year for their "deeds and contributions to the command," the Air Force said.

Receiving posthumous recognition aside from Tolentino's father are Maj. Felipe Veran, father of Brig. Gen. Efren Veran, chief of the Armed Forces Medical Center; 2nd Lt. Francisco Galarpe, father of PAF Brig. Gen. Henry Galarpe; 2nd Lt. Eugenio Puente Sr., father of PAF Col. Licinio Puente; Mariano Sarmiento Sr., father of Brig. Gen. Mariano Sarmiento Jr. of the Armed Forces Judge Advocate General, and Geronimo Barbieto, father of Maj. Gen. Jose Barbieto of the Army.

Also expected to receive an award tonight is Maj. Pedro Cachuela, father to two generals: Police Chief Supt. Napoleon Cachuela and Maj. Gen. Isagani Cachuela, an Army commander.

Other awardees are: Second Lieutenants Emilio Marayag Sr., fathrer of Admiral Emilio Marayag Jr.; Zoilo Benavidez Sr., father of the Army's Brig. Gen. Zoilo Benavidez Jr., and Conrado Legaspi, father of Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Legaspi of the Southern Luzon Command.

Cause for excitement

The award is cause for much excitement for another awardee, 91-year-old Agustin Galzote, whose son Edwin is currently a major general in the Air Force.

"This is very important for us. It is our pride, because it is rare for a soldier to have a child who becomes a general," said Galzote, a World War II veteran who served with the 414th Aircraft Repair Squadron. He said he never saw the tribute coming but was "very, very happy" when he learned that his son had earned two stars.

Tolentino has not forgotten how his father struggled to support his wife and eight children.

"My mom had a hard time stretching his meager pay," said Tolentino of his late mother Elena, a pharmacist who did not practice in order to raise her children.

For the young Tolentino, this meant weekend work, selling newspapers and taking on construction jobs to help the family. He even worked as a caddy at the Villamor Air Base golf course.

But the hardships also raised his aspirations. "I felt that I should in a way surpass what my father did; I would not just be a soldier.

The family's dwindling finances eventually led him to the Philippine Military Academy (PMA).

Choice

"It was my choice. Life was hard and I feared I might not finish my studies (at Feati University). Since education is free at the PMA, I gave it a try. My parents approved, of course," Tolentino said.

Rising through the ranks, he eventually earned the star his father never got to see.

His father passed away in 1999, when he was chief of the Tactical Operations Group in Davao City.

"I'm not different from him, I'm just above him because I became an officer. But it was his influence that led me to become a soldier," said Tolentino, who leads the Father's Day celebration in his old neighborhood.

Cops to work with soldiers in Metro Manila deployment

IT'S NOT ONLY SOLdiers that would be deployed in depressed areas in Metro Manila.

Maj. Gen. Ben Dolorfino, commander of the military's National Capital Region Command (NCRComm), said yesterday that policemen would accompany soldiers if and when the military decides to redeploy personnel in selected depressed areas in the metropolis.

Dolorfino said at least two policemen would accompany each of the 26 military teams.

But he said the Armed Forces of the Philippines leadership had yet to decide on the redeployment.

Dolorfino said there was a "clamor" among residents in the urban poor communities for the return of the soldiers, saying their presence improved peace and order in their areas.

The military had deployed troops in depressed barangays in Metro Manila but pulled them out shortly before the May elections.

Militant groups had strongly opposed the deployment, saying the soldiers were campaigning against left-wing party-list groups.

Dolorfino said the deployment was based on Executive Order No. 546 that lays down the Arroyo government antiinsurgency campaign. *Alcuin Papa*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, June 17, 2007
11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **2 Samuel 12:7-10, 13**

The Lord has forgiven your sin.

Nathan said to David, "You are this man! It is Yahweh, God of Israel, who speaks: 'I anointed you king over Israel and saved you from Saul's hands; I gave you your master's house and your master's wives; I also gave you the nation of Israel and Judah. But if this were not enough, I would have given you even more. Why did you despise Yahweh by doing what displeases him? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife for yourself. Yes, you killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. Now the sword will never be far from your family because you have despised me and taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite for yourself.'"

David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against Yahweh." Nathan answered him, "Yahweh has forgiven your sin; you shall not die."

2nd Reading: **Galatians 2:16, 19-21**

Christ lives in me.

We know that a person is justified not by practicing the law but by faith in Christ Jesus. So we have believed in Christ Jesus that we may receive true righteousness from faith in Christ Jesus, and not from the practices of the Law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law.

As for me, the very Law brought me to die to the Law, that I may live for God. I am crucified with Christ. Do I live? It is no longer me, Christ lives in me. My life in this body is life through faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me. In this way I don't ignore the gift of God, for, if justification comes through the practice of the Law, Christ would have died for nothing.

Gospel: **Luke 7:36-8:3**

She has shown great love.

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to share his meal, so he went to the Pharisee's home and as usual reclined on the sofa to eat. And it happened that a woman of this town, who was known as a sinner, heard that he was in the Pharisee's house. She brought a precious jar of perfume and stood behind him at his feet, weeping. She wet his feet with tears, she dried them with her hair and kissed his feet and poured the perfume on them.

The Pharisee who had invited Jesus was watching and thought, "If this man were a prophet, he would know what sort of person is touching him; isn't this woman a sinner?"

Then Jesus spoke to the Pharisee and said, "Simon, I have something to ask you." He answered, "Speak, master." And Jesus said, "Two people were in debt to the same creditor. One owed him five hundred silver coins, and the other fifty. As they were unable to pay him back, he graciously canceled the debts of both. Now, which of them will love him more?"

Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, who was forgiven more." And Jesus said, "You are right." And turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? You gave me no water for my feet when I entered your house, but she has washed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You didn't welcome me with a kiss, but she has not stopped kissing my feet since she came in. You provided no oil for my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. This is why, I tell you, her sins, her many sins, are forgiven, because of her great love. But the one who is forgiven little, has little love."

Then Jesus said to the woman, "Your sins are forgiven." The others sitting with him at the table began to wonder, "Now this man claims to forgive sins!" But Jesus again spoke to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Jesus walked through towns and countryside, preaching and giving the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve followed him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and diseases: Mary called Magdalene, who had been freed of seven demons; Joanna, wife of Chuza, Herod's steward; Suzanna and others who provided for them out of their own funds.

Commentary

Nathan attacks David with the truth of his sin despite all the goodness God has done for him. He has murdered to marry another man's wife. David has despised God. David acknowledges his sin, is forgiven and will not die. We all have sinned and despised God, on our own, in collusion with others, our government and others, but do we acknowledge our sin? In baptism we heard these words: "I have been crucified with Christ, and the life I live now is not my own; Christ is living in me." Have we made that precious gift pointless, like David and so many others? Or, as in the gospel, do we follow in gratitude like the women who seek to care for Jesus as he has cared for them?

This is the story of a Pharisee who invites Jesus to dinner. A woman comes and anoints Jesus' feet, weeping and drying them with her hair. She scandalizes the host who has not treated Jesus with respect. He disdains the woman and Jesus, so Jesus tells him a parable about forgiveness of debts/sins. Who loves him more—the one who is forgiven little, or the one who is forgiven much? She is forgiven much because of her love and yet the Pharisee doesn't even know that he is in even greater need than she is—because of his lack of hospitality, his disdain and lack of respect for either of them, his judgment and self-righteousness. And what of us—how much do we need to be forgiven?

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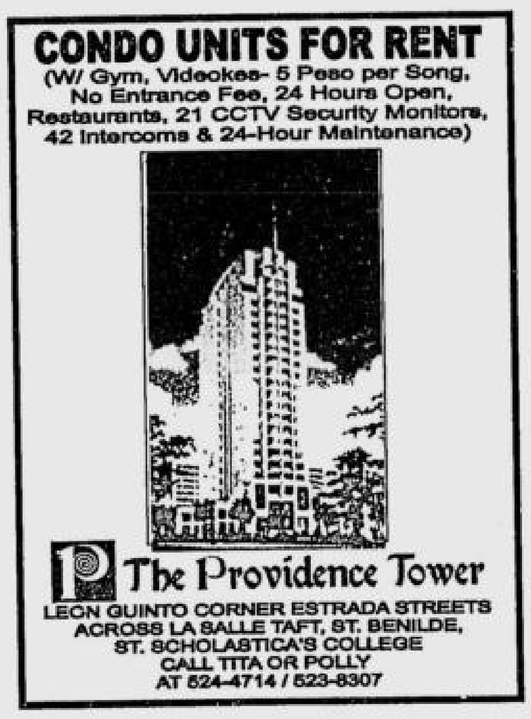
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Home-based ...

From page A1

the minds of children, aged 3-5, to become good citizens.

Learn and Play is a home-based, informal preschool education program which started in 2004.

"This is just a stop-gap measure. We just want to fill the void, and provide some sort of transition before they attend the regular daycare center," says Socorro Arevalo, program director of Learn and Play.

But of course, she is just trying to downplay the program's gains.

Fueled by the spirit of volunteerism, the program has succeeded in changing the children's "old habits" and attitude toward education. Some have even ended up as "scholars" of private firms.

The Manila model worked out so well, it has been copied by communities in as far away as Davao City and has caught the attention of the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef).

It's easy to see why.

In the volunteers' tiny living rooms or dusty front yards, the children learn about their rights, love of God, country and family, self-affirmation, health and the environment in a merry mix of games, songs, poems and stories.

While some of their parents are absorbed in a poker game or in a drinking session down the alley, these children are being introduced to the alphabet, and the three Rs (reading, writing and arithmetic) two hours a day, five days a week, right in their own community.

"My feeling is we have to start them young," says Arevalo, 55, a child care advocate, in an interview with the INQUIRER at the Haven of Angels, a child-caring foundation in San Andres, Manila, which she also supervises.

"Children learn best before the age of 6; they absorb everything like sponge," she says.

Crowded centers

The program grew out of Arevalo's conversations with Ma. Evelina Atienza and child care advocates in 2004 on how to address the problem of 100,000 children left out by crowded daycare centers.

Atienza is the wife of outgoing Mayor Lito Atienza and executive director of Kababaihan ng Maynila Foundation Inc.

Through Kababaihan, a network of women in the city, Arevalo scouted for mothers who can undergo training and are willing to teach youngsters in their own homes—without any remuneration.

She explains how she came up with the concept: "Mothers teach their kids good values. Then there are kids who wander the streets and curse. So I thought: Why don't we get together these mothers who teach good values and these kids who curse?"

Sustainable program

From an initial 10 recruits, including Gilbuena, the number grew to 40 volunteers in less than a year.

Now, there are more than a hundred women volunteers spread out in depressed communities in Baseco, Parola, Smokey Mountain and San Andres who are training others for the same job.

"When we started, we really had no funds. I made a proposal to Mrs. Atienza and then to the mayor. To make it sustainable, we had to endorse it with the DSWD (Department of Social Welfare and Development)," Arevalo says.

She later requested specialists of the DSWD to train the volunteers for free.

After running into some resistance from operators of regular daycare centers and even supporters of rival politicians in the barangay, the program was eventually embraced by the communities, especially the parents.

(Arevalo says one of her contacts was stabbed dead, supposedly to scare her into withdrawing the program in Baseco, but she went bravely ahead.)

Eager kids

In time, even the kids got the hang of it.

"Sometimes, we would be roused by knocks on our door and calls by children early in the morning. They're so eager to attend day care," says Gilbuena, 32, a mother of three and a management graduate.

The sea change in the attitude of children was also noticeable.

"The parents observed that their children had become more respectful and more conscious about their personal hygiene," says Girlie Ravina, 29, neighbor and fellow teacher-volunteer of Gilbuena in Baseco.

Proof that home-based education was making an impression on the minds of the preschoolers was the fact that some of them had become "scholars" of an oil company in grade school (after passing an exam). They also get free school supplies.

Ordinary miracles

But what hardly gets noticed, except by the volunteer-teachers, are the miracles happening in the homes-cum-daycare.

"There was one kid we picked up on the street, and convinced to attend daycare. He stopped sniffing Rugby (glue) after that," says Gloria Lorenzo, 43, a volunteer in the tenements occupied by former garbage scavengers in Smokey Mountain, the city's former dumpsite. "There was another boy whom everyone thought was a nut case. When we got him to attend the daycare, it turned out he had a hearing problem."

Thanks to the program, the volunteers, some of whom did not finish college, have conquered their fears about teaching and learning new skills. They have also made personal discoveries on, say, child psychology.

"One thing I learned is to better understand children, you need to walk their world. We can't just talk our mouths off for two hours. We have to let them speak their mind, and to listen to them," says Ravina, a mother of four.

Endless rewards

The rewards are endless. They get to bond with the kids' mothers and compare notes on parenting. And because of their experience, they can easily land jobs in regular daycare centers.

The volunteers use a common handbook—a collection of teaching materials culled from their seminars, as well as the parent-teachers' own experiences—for their year-round teaching.

Representatives from Unicef got wind of the program and visited Baseco. They were so impressed they asked Arevalo to talk about the program in the countryside and even donated teaching materials and mobile daycare centers to the city.

In fact, the Manila model has been replicated in Davao City but with one improvement—the volunteers get paid by barangay officials.

"Maybe it happened by the grace of God," says Arevalo. "I never knew we would get this far."

For her work in Learn and Play, Arevalo was recently named Metro Manila's first awardee of Avon's Hello Tomorrow grant, which provides funds to individuals or organizations that help improve women's lives.

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SANYO CAPACITOR PHILS. CORP., one of the leaders in manufacturing quality and globally competitive capacitors, recently signed the renewal of its corporate healthcare agreement with **MEDICard Philippines.** (seated L-R) MEDICard's **LUIS MONTOYA** (EVP & General Manager) and **DR. NICANOR MONTOYA** (President) with Sanyo's **MASAHIDE OHASHI** (President) and **ENRICO ESPINO** (HR Manager). (standing L-R) MEDICard's **DR. VOLTAIRE VICTORIA** (Sales & Business Devt. Manager), **OMAR CATOLOS** (Membership Consultant) and **SARIE FRANCISCO** (Marketing Assistant) with Sanyo's **ROWENA MARGALLO** (Company Nurse), **DIANA KANEKO** (Interpreter) and **ROLAND DOMINGO** (Finance Manager).

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Flexible Fuel Vehi

TEST DRIVE. President Macapagal-Arroyo tries Ford's flexible fuel vehicle (FFV) during the ceremonial launch of the Ford plant in San Pedro, Laguna Thursday.

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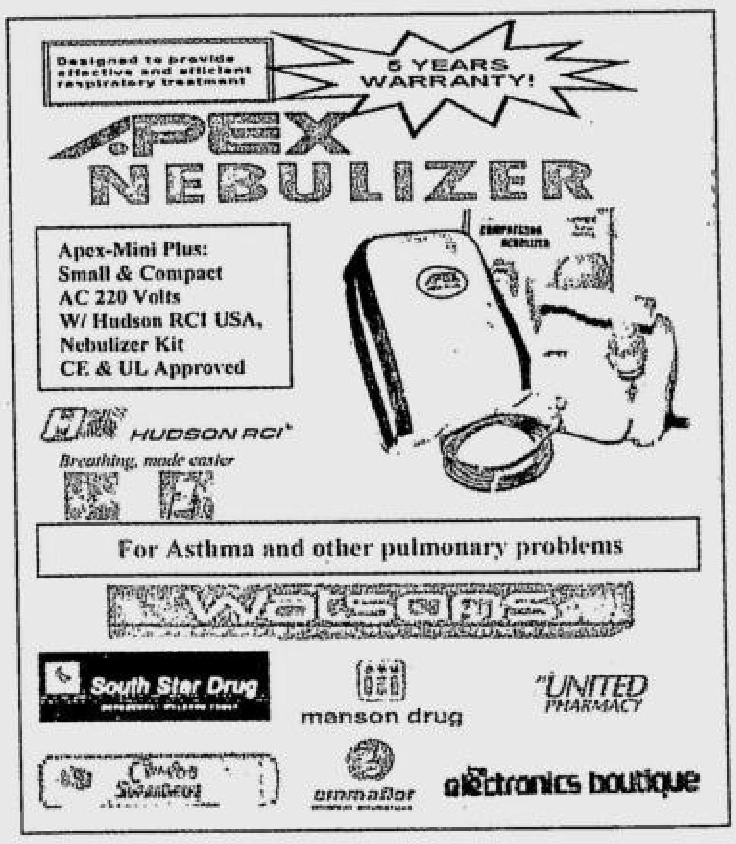
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Drop in ...

From page A1

2010, the University of Sto. Tomas will be opening a campus here. The University of the East has bought property in the area.

Suddenly there's life

"Suddenly, there's life here," said another younger worker who said he was just two months into his job at the old Ford factory that assembles cars for local and international distribution.

The new plant will produce the engine called the E20 Flex Fuel Vehicle (FFV), which will use traditional gasoline or a mix containing up to 20 percent bio-ethanol fuel.

Cherry Ramirez, Ford Group Phil. assistant vice president for corporate and government affairs, said the FFV engines produced by the factory would be exported to Africa, assuring dollar revenues for the country.

"It will also be exported to the Asean markets such as Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam," she added.

According to Ford's estimates, production of the FFV engine will reach 105,000 units, valued at about P6.5 billion.

Ramirez said the new Ford investment has not only generated jobs and more revenues for the Philippines, it was also a big step in the global campaign to reverse the ill effects of global warming.

Environment-friendly

She said FFV engines are environment friendly, capable of reducing carbon emissions by up to 60 percent.

"This new facility will further strengthen the Philippines as a linchpin in our FFV strategy for the Asean region," said Dave Alden, vice president of marketing, sales and service.

He said Ford would continue to develop the use of biofuels though the FFV technology.

Ramirez explained that once the volume of production steps up, Ford would definitely be hiring more workers. The plant's workers mainly come from the communities around Sta. Rosa.

Learning experience

Two workers, who were spending their free day in a boarding house occupied mainly by Ford employees, said work in the factory was a learning experience.

"We wish more plants like these would open," said one newly hired worker who looked to be in his mid-20s.

"Instead of our people leaving for jobs abroad, the jobs should come here," said another worker.

The government reported the other day a significant drop in the country's unemployment rate and growth in jobs generation. It said the jobless rate fell to 7.4 percent in April, from 8.2 percent last year. It also said 1.007 million new jobs were created as of April from a year ago, slightly surpassing the target of generating one million new jobs a year.

Trickling down to masses

Socio-Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said the favorable employment and jobs generation figures were an offshoot of the strong growth posted by the economy and an indication that the benefits of that growth were starting to trickle down to the mass of Filipinos.

The government earlier said that the economy grew at its fastest rate in 17 years, with gross domestic product registering 6.9 percent in the three months to March, from a year earlier.

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Kowtow

EDITORIAL

TO KOWTOW IN THE CHINA OF THE EMPERORS was to kneel and touch the ground with the forehead, as a sign of worship or submission. Now that China has become an economic powerhouse and has aggressively embarked on enhancing its prestige and influence in various parts of the world—from Southeast Asia to Latin America and to Africa—regional and global powers are trying to figure out how to avoid kowtowing to China.

During the recent Asean Regional Forum held in Manila, representatives of the United States, Japan, India and Australia moved to firm up quietly an emerging alliance, the Quadrilateral Initiative. The initiative is clearly about China, but how so?

We can be sure that China is aware of this emerging bloc, and that all four nations are trying to figure out how to balance their economic and strategic interests. The Philippines, with its longstanding security and economic (not to mention emotional) ties with America, its growing military closeness to Australia, its economic overtures to Japan, and its growing awareness of India as both an economic partner and rival in certain industries, must also consider the implications of its own expanding ties with China.

Since President Marcos bucked the Cold War trend and opened diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, Philippine governments, believing that warmer Sino-Philippine relations will lead to a cooling of Chinese support for Filipino communists, have viewed the Chinese as a power to lobby. Certainly, the China of Mao, which supplied weapons to the New People's Army, is a time long past.

Today, the Filipinos most eager to lobby for, and boast of, Chinese support are our very own mainstream politicians, who may not be statesmen but who know where a quick buck or two can be made. During the Arroyo administration's political troubles in July 2005, on the same day former President Ramos helped save the Arroyo presidency, Speaker Jose de Venecia played the China card, loudly singing the praises of the Chinese ambassador who, he said, had expressed support for the President.

Chinese foreign policy is pragmatic. It focuses on trade, rather than on saber-rattling, to spread and solidify Chinese influence around the world. In contrast, its main rival, the United States, tends to be schizophrenic—on one hand, bluntly focusing on US commercial and military interests; on the other, preaching democracy, transparency, and good governance. China does not worry about, or insist on, such irrelevant values when it comes to doing business.

Take, for example, the dilemma faced by our armed forces. The AFP has long been dependent on the United States for training and equipment. This gives the United States a leverage that can place the Americans at odds with the culture of corruption within our officer corps. As a foreign observer put it, the moment Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia (now retired) was exposed sneaking ill-gotten dollars into the United States, everything that Antonio Trillanes III complained about the AFP was proven right. America embarrassed our generals and paved the way for an embarrassing political defeat in the last elections for the President and her allies.

In contrast, China does not preach, it simply hands over cold, hard cash. Last May, it gave the AFP $1.2 million in military engineering equipment, representing the third such donation. Filipino communists threatened to burn the equipment, of course, but the donation has delighted the AFP. And while the military assistance is peanuts, other deals are big—big enough, as in the case of the $329.5-million broadband project signed by the government with ZTE of Shenzhen, China, for the President to leave her husband's side and personally act as a witness to the deal.

The ZTE deal has, of course, sparked protests, from the US Embassy, from the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (which has asked for a transparent review of the deal), and from the consortia that lost out in the bidding, most notably Amsterdam Holdings which was being backed by ZTE's competitor Huawe. We can expect fireworks in the Senate over this, but we can also expect stonewalling from the Palace. Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri has said the Chinese government had proposed to fund the modernization of the country's entire telecommunication system—and ZTE itself has announced it is looking into further investments in agriculture, rubber and mining. "There's plenty more where the money came from" is the underlying message.

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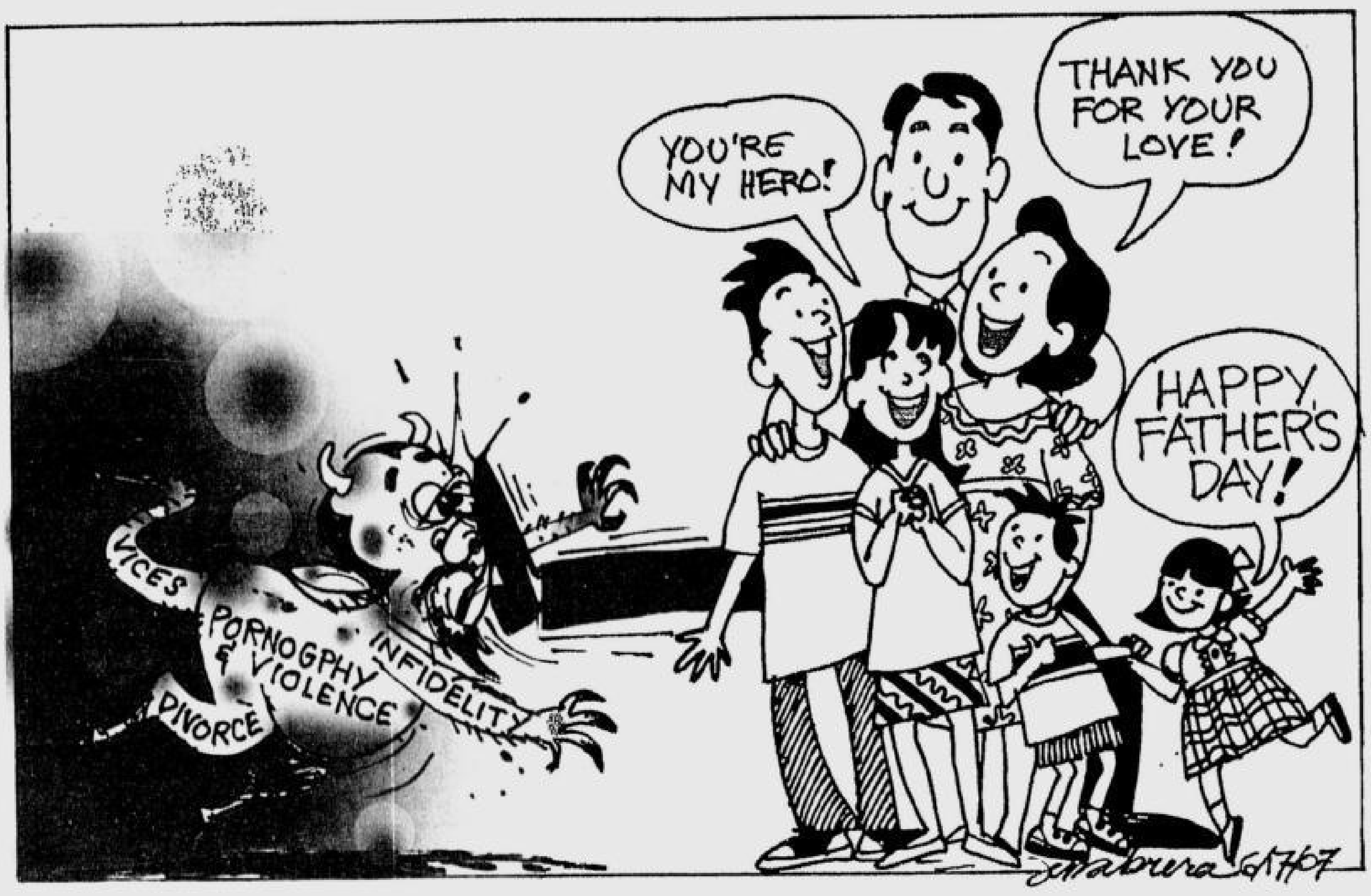


The first of a thousand steps

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS LAST MAY have restored many people's confidence in the wisdom of the Filipino voter in the exercise of his precious right of suffrage. Not completely, to be sure, and in fact only slightly, but at least it's a start. We may hopefully glimpse the day when the ballot will finally be regarded as the best guaranty of a government run by honest and competent officials with full fidelity to the mandate of the electorate. This may take some time, but it could be the first of a thousand steps.

The most encouraging sign of the light at the end of the tunnel is the results of the senatorial elections. Despite the opportunities and perquisites of the so-called Team Unity, it floundered miserably with only two of the 12-man slate making the grade. And to think they all ran under the sponsorship of no less than the President of the Philippines who had confidently pronounced them as "winnable." The nation-wide electorate disagreed.

What must be adding to her chagrin is the uncertain political attachment of the two winners from the administration ticket. Senators Edgardo J. Angara and Joker P. Arroyo are not exactly do-or-die loyalists of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo like, say, Mike Defensor or Prospero Pichay. The two re-elected senators are known for their principled independence. Their gratitude for their inclusion in the TU ticket has not automatically translated to blind obedience to the President.

Ms Gloria would dismiss her humiliating defeat in the senatorial elections and claim her "resounding victory" in the local elections as the true evidence of her continued support from the people. As we lawyers say, evidence does not necessarily result in proof. The conduct of many local elections, compared to the recent senatorial polls, was as usual far from satisfactory. As President of the Philippines, GMA should have known better than to base her supposed victory on such elections.

Expect the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal and the regional trial courts to be deluged with election protests against the accustomed vices that have made elections in this country mere auction sales or insolent intimidations of brute force, government compulsions, falsification of documents, show business idolatry, and other anomalies that have reduced the ballot to a mere scrap of paper to authenticate spurious titles. Many candidates-elect, not excluding members of the House of Representatives, will assume or re-assume their positions on June 30 under false pretenses.

Yet, despite the disappointing results in many local elections throughout out the land, especially in those places least supervised or perhaps deliberately ignored by the Commission on Elections, there are a number of outstanding exceptions that should gladden conscientious citizens who still believe that the ballot is the ultimate instrument for the salvation of our democracy.

Especially welcome is the lessening of the arrant fascination of the *bakya* crowd for the box office as a qualification for public office. Many actors, actresses, singers, comedians, athletes, and other entertainers have demonstrated this error that has sorely polluted the public service. They should learn from the Squirrel when it said to the Mountain in Ralph Waldo Emerson's little poem: "Talents differ; all is well and wisely put. If I cannot carry mountains on my back, neither can you crack a nut."

Many popular entertainers learned that lesson the hard way last month. Their talents are better exhibited before the klieg lights rather than the political limelight, which has only revealed their limitations. Of course, this does not mean that all entertainers are absolutely disqualified from public office; a few of them have served well, some even with distinction. I should add that there are also non-entertainers, including those with impressive academic titles from foreign universities, whose indifferent and sometimes even questionable performance has also disappointed their supporters.

It is gratifying that many voters have realized that they should not vote for entertainers simply because they are entertainers. Noticeably, and fortunately, the political campaigns this year did not feature song-and-dance numbers to amuse the now more discriminating audience.

I cannot end this article without expressing my personal elation over the victory of Governor-elect Eduardo Panlilio of Pampanga, Governor Ma. Gracia Cielo Padaca of Isabela, Mayor Jesse Robredo of Naga City, and the enlightened voters who supported them against the behemoths of power and privilege. Their triumph is shared by all civic-minded Filipinos who still nurture the flickering faith that our democracy, while near death, may yet survive and, indeed, grow healthy and robust.

Payback time

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT THREE MEN each of whom owed P10,000 to Pedro who suddenly died of a heart attack. At the funeral, the first man, stricken by his conscience, went to the grieving wife and gave her P10,000. The second man also gave her P10,000 in payment of his debt. And the third man, what did he do? He brought out his check book, issued and signed a P10,000-cheque in the name of Pedro, and threw it to the grave as the coffin was being lowered.

* * *

In today's Gospel (LK. 7,36-50), Jesus allows a sinful woman to show her repentance as she anointed His feet with oil. Jesus sees sincere repentance. In contrast, Simon has doubts about that. Why is it that when it comes to repentance, it is so easy for us to judge others of their sincerity of heart, while we ourselves have many conditions, rationalizations, postponements and alibis.

* * *

It's payback time. You and I have been blessed much. You and I have been forgiven much. So, when will we start paying back our debts to God? When will we really start making His agenda our agenda, and His mission our mission? When will we stop focusing on our little screens, and really look at the "big picture"? When will we stop getting and really start giving? Please don't wait for your last days or your final moments before you realize that you've left out or totally ignored your relationship and your errands for God.

* * *

Happy Father's Day! As we remember our fathers and all fathers today, let us not forget the loving Father whom our Lord Jesus Christ has proclaimed to us. What an assurance to know that all of us can relate not only to a Creator, a Supreme Being, an Intelligent One, or to a Force, but also to a very personal, loving and forgiving Father. That God is our Father is one of the best things that ever happened and dawned upon humanity.

* * *

We fall miserably short when we think of God as a CEO (chief executive officer). God is not some strict, legalistic, exacting, uncompromising, unforgiving manager; He is the Creator of the universe and our loving Father. And so, what would that make of us? COO! (Children of Owner!)

* * *

What is a father? A boy gave this beautiful response: "A father is a person who has pictures in his wallet where he used to have money." Having been brought up by a father who, in spite of many hardships, tried to give his very best to us, his children, I think I know what the child meant by that. I know, too, of fathers who sacrifice so much, just so a son or a daughter will have a better life. As for those fathers who still have so much or too much money in their wallets, perhaps it's time for them to really examine their being a father: Do you need all that money? How did you make all that money? Is money all that important? Is money all that you'll leave behind?

* * *

"Fathers have very stout hearts, so they have to be broken sometimes, or no one would know what's inside." Fathers have always been thought of being tough and strong. However, some of the best moments a father can and should share with his children are his own stories of failures, defeats, disappointments, and even weaknesses. Something wonderful happens when children are given a chance to find out that their father has a heart that beats, bleeds and loves. Fathers, don't deprive your children of the experience of knowing you, the real you.

* * *

Papa always told us, his children, that he had no wealth to leave behind for us. He promised, however, that he would leave behind two things for us; education and a good name. He worked hard to send us all through college, and he worked clean to send us all through life. Today, Father's Day, as we remember our fathers, may all fathers be reminded of what they are leaving behind. As a father, are you leaving behind memories and values which your children can hang on to? Or are you leaving behind clutter and garbage which your children will have to carry and clean after you?

* * *

As for the children, there is also payback time. Fathers also need some payback. Fathers also need to be loved and appreciated while they are still alive, and they need to be remembered, treasured and honored for always.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, remind me that life is not life if there is no payback. Amen.

A dream coming true

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban

ACCOMPANIED BY MY WIFE LENI, I ARRIVED from Osaka a few days ago. Earlier, in Tokyo, I called on Japanese Chief Justice Hiro Shimada and Senior Deputy Foreign Minister Katsuhito Asano to thank them for the no-strings-attached P300-million grant the Japanese government gave last year to help the Supreme Court in building the Philippine Judicial Academy (Philja) Development Center in Tagaytay.

No government expense. The generous cash gift was handed to the Philippine government by Japanese Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamazaki on Jan. 26, 2006, during my incumbency as chief justice. Thus, I felt it my duty to express my thanks to the institutions and officials who made this donation possible. Significantly, the money was given via a short, straight-forward letter—without any conditions, timetables or requirements to hire Japanese architects, contractors or technical consultants. Parenthetically, all charges for our trip were borne by me personally, at no expense to the Philippine and Japanese governments.

Neither our Supreme Court nor the Japanese government asked me to undertake this visit. But precisely because of the implicit trust accompanying the unconditional facility, I felt all the more compelled to reassure our benefactors that the project was well on its way. I gave the Japanese officials copies of the floor plans and perspectives of the Center and informed them of the Philja's determination to complete the project as soon as practicable.

I went a little further than merely thanking them. I inquired about the Japanese system of admission to the bar and to the judiciary, as well as the curriculum of the Japanese Judicial Institute. Chief Justice Shimada and retired Prosecutor-General Akio Harada, who hosted us for dinner, said that legal education in Japan has recently been reformed such that, now, about 50 percent pass the bar examinations. In the past, only about 2 to 3 percent did.

However, after hurdling the exams, the bar examinees still need to study for about one and a half years to specialize in one of three fields: the judiciary, the prosecutorial service, or private law practice. Thereafter, they are required to pass a final examination to begin their distinct professions as judges, prosecutors or private practitioners.

Like in other progressive judicial regimes, Japanese judges need to be constantly updated by their Supreme Court through their own judicial school. Thus, subject to confirmation by our Supreme Court, I proposed a Judicial Cooperation Agreement between the Philippines and Japan, like the ones we have concluded with Spain, Canada and the United States.

It is good to be the recipient of a financial grant to build our Academy's physical facilities, but it is equally advantageous to have an exchange program to buttress the intellectual and ethical standards of the Philja. After all, judges from many countries like Nepal, Vietnam and Cambodia have been sent here to study our judicial systems.

Long-gestating dream. The Supreme Court has long wanted to establish a judicial school to train lawyers to be good magistrates and to educate incumbents to become better judges. This dream had an early breakthrough on July 19, 1995 when then President Fidel V. Ramos turned over to the Supreme Court 51 percent of a government-sequestered corporation that owned a 3.3 hectare property in Tagaytay. The donation was initiated by then Presidential Legal Counsel (now Supreme Court Justice) Antonio T. Carpio.

Slowly, the private shareholders followed suit and donated their respective stocks. Now, the Court controls almost all of the issued shares. Since then, Philja, under its venerable Chancellor Ameurfina A. Melencio-Herrera, had been conducting short courses in the meager facilities available. The Court has long asked Congress and the President for funds to build decent classrooms, conference rooms, dining lounges and boarding facilities, to no avail.

With no government funds forthcoming, then Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr. decided to seek external financial assistance. The foreign funders took sometime. But finally the Japanese government, through the persistence of Ambassador Yamazaki and with the approval of Minister Asano, his immediate superior, responded with the P300-million unconditional assistance.

Acknowledgments. For helping me succeed in this mission, may I publicly thank Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto J. Romulo, Ambassador Victor G. Garcia III (the foreign affairs legal honcho), Philippine Ambassador to Japan Domingo L. Siazon Jr. and his gracious wife Kay, and Philippine Consul General to Osaka Maria Lourdes Ramiro Lopez, and their respective staffs.

I am also sincerely grateful to Ms Nori Yamazaki, Ambassador Yamazaki's charming wife, for personally touring us around little known but interesting spots in Tokyo. She also brought us to Holy Mass at the St. Ignatius Church in the Sophia University. But the highlight of our Tokyo roaming was the sumptuous lunch she herself prepared at their home in Shibuya; a rare treat, indeed.

With the money already in the Court's bank account and with plans almost complete, the construction and equipping of the Philja Development Center are expected to be finished in about two years. Soon, the collective vision of the judiciary for the Philja Development Center will be a reality. The common dream is coming true.

* * *

Comments are welcome at chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com

Father of super heroes

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ABOUT THE BEST PART OF "FANTASTIC FOUR: Rise of the Silver Surfer" comes early in the movie, during the wedding of Reed Richards aka Mr. Fantastic (Welsh actor Ioan Gruffudd) and Sue Storm aka The Invisible Woman (Jessica Alba). One of the guests queuing up at the wedding venue is an old man with glasses, white hair and a white mustache, eliciting laughter from comics cognoscenti in the theater because he happens to be Stan Lee, creator of the "Fantastic Four" as well as of "Spider Man," among the most durable and beloved of comics franchises.

There's even more laughter as the bouncer manning the entrance fails to recognize Lee and bars him from entering. Actually, as Lee himself tells an interviewer, the scene is straight out of the comic book, when, in the course of drawing and penning the wedding scene, he thought it would be a hoot to draw himself and his collaborator Jack Kirby into the scene.

That's the kind of wry, self-deprecating humor that one has come to expect of Lee, who in the 1960s ushered in what has come to be known as "The Marvel Age of Comics" with both new super heroes and refurbished old favorites. Today, according to the production notes, Lee's "prodigious output may comprise the largest body of published work by any single writer." In the world of comics, Lee is not just a contemporary Shakespeare, he is the father of an entire genre, the creator of new worlds.

It was "Spider Man" who broke the mold of the comic super hero who before then was invariably a white boy from the Midwest (even if by way of an alien planet) with conservative values and staunch loyalty to the American flag. But Peter Parker had one crucial difference: he was a teenager, and so along with coping with his new powers, he must also try to overcome adolescent angst and inchoate anger. His pursuit of bad guys wasn't as pure in motive as that of "Superman" or "Captain America." Instead, his efforts were tainted by personal motives like revenge and showing up his rivals in love. But his humanity endeared him to Marvel's core audience of teens.

* * *

SOME of those edgy elements are present in "Fantastic Four," a comics franchise about a group of disparate individuals who find themselves bonded by a shared experience that transforms them from ordinary humans to mutants with fantastic powers.

While the first movie was all about the four's coming to terms with their powers and learning how to use them to overcome the evil "Dr. Doom," the second film outing delves deeper into issues of family and team work, with the members trying to get past their differences and working together in a complementary fashion, because this time the challenge they face is more serious and threatens the entire globe.

The "Silver Surfer" in the movie's title is an otherworldly character, a herald who searches out living planets to be devoured by Galactus. It's said that within eight days of the Silver Surfer's appearance on a planet, the planet dies. And with the alien scout wreaking havoc on Earth, it seems but a matter of days before the Earth itself dies.

The movie's biggest virtue, to my mind, is its single-minded focus on plotting and effects. True, time is given to the development of the characters' issues, including solving the mystery of the Silver Surfer's background. But the movie is propelled inexorably by the action, with no disturbing detours like those that plagued the third "Spider Man" film.

* * *

BUT back to Stan Lee. These days, we see more of Lee than just cameos in his super hero movies. We can catch sight of him in a reality TV show called "Who Wants to be a Super Hero?" When I first heard of it, I thought its concept was cheesy in the extreme: a group of ordinary Joes and Janes who make up their own "super hero" personas and even create their costumes and then compete to be the one remaining "super" character.

Serving as ring master and advisor to this motley collection of wannabe super heroes is Lee, who walks them through a series of challenges before eliminating one of them, with the rejected one ordered to throw his or her costume into a trash bin, after which it is burnt to a crisp by a bolt of lightning. My children and I were laughing for most of the time we first chanced upon the show (on "Jack" TV), but despite (or because of) its mix of "skankiness" and sincere dedication to super hero ideals, we found ourselves hooked.

In one show, the aspiring super heroes were asked to don protective clothing to "rescue" a little old lady trapped in her house. "Rescue" because her yard was guarded by a pair of vicious attack dogs that would and could tear apart any intruder. Each contender was asked to try to make it to the back door while being assailed by the dogs. The eliminated contestant turned out to be "Cell Phone Girl" who gave up a few seconds after scaling the fence, complaining of a headache.

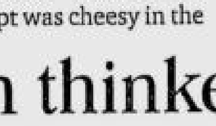
* * *

THE MOST recent show I caught involved the last four aspirants: Major Victory, Lumeria, Feedback and Fat Momma, who were each given a "secret mission" in their meetings with a pair of convicts. One is told to try to pat a female convict on the shoulders while another is asked to brush her hair away from her face. The men have to massage a convict's shoulders or else hug him three times.

It was amusing to watch the "super heroes" attempt to overcome the convicts' skepticism and earn their trust while accomplishing their missions. "Feedback" manages to win hugs from the convict not by using his super powers, but by evoking shared memories of their dead fathers.

Lee himself was so moved by this display of empathy that he professed fondness for the final four, showing us that the father of super heroes himself has a heroic heart.

An American thinker



PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

RICHARD RORTY, AN UNUSUAL AMERICAN philosopher who rebelled against his own discipline, died last week. He was possibly the most important thinker of his generation. While most of his colleagues in philosophy departments chose to ignore the challenge of European postmodernism, Rorty responded to it by finding a home for many of its themes in the heartland of American pragmatism itself. He tamed and harnessed Nietzsche to the pragmatist school of John Dewey and William James, in the process sparking a revival of interest in America's own homegrown contribution to philosophy.

At the time of his death, Rorty was a professor at Stanford University's department of comparative literature, teaching courses on Nietzsche and Heidegger to students of literary criticism. Since the publication of his groundbreaking work, "Philosophy and the Mirror of Nature," he had become somewhat of an outcast in the community of professional philosophers. His style of writing reflected his personal wish to "de-professionalize" philosophy and to make it continuous with literature. He wrote with subdued elegance, articulating the most difficult ideas in very casual language. He contributed book reviews and papers to different publications outside the academic circuit, and wrote on a variety of substantive issues with unerring clarity. He was a modern Dewey.

Whenever I have a chance to go to the United States, I would always make it a point to visit two dear friends from whom I have learned a lot. In Boston, I would go and see Daniel Boone Schirmer, the political activist and writer, who died last year. In San Francisco, I would see Rorty. Now they're both gone, Boone Schirmer at 91 and Richard Rorty at 75. I wasn't aware Rorty was ill. I was planning to visit him at his Stanford office in October this year. We had exchanged brief notes, books, and cards until about five years ago.

Rorty came to the Philippines in August 1999 to deliver a university lecture that coincided with the oath-taking of my friend Francisco Nemenzo as president of the University of the Philippines. It was his first and only visit to the country. He took a break from his visiting professorship at the Australian National University in Canberra to accept UP's invitation. I had felt awkward about asking him to come because we had no budget for his travel expenses and honorarium. He told me not to worry about it since, he said, he is well paid by Stanford. He made only one request—to set aside one day during his visit so he could go bird-watching.

Trained in the tradition of analytical philosophy at Chicago and Yale, this former president of the American Philosophical Association taught philosophy for 20 years at Princeton and 15 years at the University of Virginia. In 1979, Princeton University Press published the book that severed his connections to the philosophical community that had until then nurtured him. That break led him out of the precincts of academic philosophy into the fold of humanities and literature departments, where he could teach any course he wanted to teach, and thus continue what he thought should be the aim of philosophy in our time—to facilitate the conversation of cultures. Accordingly, he was appointed professor of humanities at the University of Virginia, from where he launched the revival of pragmatism based on a renewed interest in the writings of John Dewey and William James.

My encounter with the work of Rorty has led me to a radical rethinking of my own discipline, sociology. Today, I approach my work in the same pragmatist spirit in which Rorty views all intellectual activity: "We cannot regard truth as a goal of inquiry. The purpose of inquiry is to achieve agreement among human beings about what to do, to bring about consensus on the ends to be achieved and the means to be used to achieve those ends. Inquiry that does not achieve coordination of behavior is not inquiry, but simply wordplay."

Not since C. Wright Mills has there been an American writer who could write so persuasively and boldly. My fascination with Rorty was immediate. Here is a writer who engages Derrida and Habermas in sustained conversations, who shares Foucault's familiarity with Heidegger, who admires Marcel Proust and Vladimir Nabokov as much as he is struck by Thomas Pynchon and Neil Stephenson, and who quotes from Milan Kundera as much as he does from Walt Whitman.

I am obviously a fan. I read Rorty as an antidote to Foucault's persuasive pessimism. I love the way he privatizes Nietzsche so that the latter's intellectual aristocracy can be reconciled with the aspiration to democracy. I like how he handles postmodern themes—ever so lightly and with an abundance of irony and originality. I admire the way he criticizes his colleagues and replies to his critics—often combative but never offensive, and always with great intelligence, wit and grace.

Yesterday, a long-awaited package from Amazon Books finally arrived at my door. In it were two books by Rorty: "What's the Use of Truth?" and "Philosophy as Cultural Politics." The first re-states his Nietzschean attitude toward knowledge, the second his Deweyan view of the changing place of philosophy in Western culture. I turn to these books like a farewell present from a strong poet who shook and demystified philosophy.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Daddy's girls

I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT MY BEST FRIENDS.

There's Neeks, who sits across from me, her hair a perfect swing around her face. Beside her, on a restaurant booth, sits her huge tote bag—containing, as we all suspect, half the contents of National Bookstore. This, after all, is the girl who collects printers as a hobby, is a proud owner of an Epson Dot-Matrix, and got a laminating machine on her high school graduation.

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

There's Daki, who not only collects shoes, she lines them up, takes polaroids, and glories over her stiletto heels and rainbow-colored strappy flats like Silas Marner on steroids. She bounces on the seat, and grins at the two of us, with a smile that can blind even a satellite circling Mars.

And then there's me, my tomato-sauce-stained notebook (with Jolina on the cover) spread on the coffee shop table, feverishly transcribing our conversation—and that of the arguing couple behind us. We're all very different. Daki is a law student, Neeks is an academic, and I'm the perpetually penniless writer. Daki's car is a pigsty, my room is where even pigs fear to tread, and Neeks, whose idea of joy is an hour with her label-maker, is the only one I know under the age of 60 who actually hired a professional librarian to catalog her books according to the Dewey Decimal System.

There are, of course, similarities. All of us are loners, and on occasion can spend hours in the same coffee shop without a word to each other. All three of us want to be Audrey Hepburn, or barring that, Toni Gonzaga. On the rare times we're together, once every four or so months when Neeks is back from studies abroad and Daki is not cross-eyed over a law book, we like to talk. A lot.

We talk about growing up as geeks (Daki collected rocks) and playing alone (Neeks converted a closet into a condo building for her Barbie dolls and gave each character a resumé). We talk about guys who wear tight jeans, roll our eyes at silver-spangled flats and discuss the perils of the current administration. Daki says she thinks she's fat, Neeks lectures her on being too skinny, and I make my routine announcement of embarking on a crash diet tomorrow in the hopes Neeks will lecture me too. She never does. But mostly, we talk about our men.

Neeks calls hers Ef. She used to call him father, and then she kept shortening it until he complained she might start calling him "F" soon. And so my efficient friend took the suggestion, and now begins phone calls with "Hi Ef."

Daki calls hers "Dad" on a normal day, "Daaaaad" when she's whining, "Father" when she's explaining something, and "Dadoo" when she's perky. I just call mine Dad. Or parental unit.

Neeks' Ef is a lawyer. She sent him an e-mail from Manchester, telling him she had gotten high distinctions on her research design class. His reply, says Neeks, was typical Ef. "Congratulations. You continuously amaze us with your intellectual prowess. Ad astra ad aspera."

Daki has recently completed her first year in law school, after spending the last year holed up in various libraries with five-inch thick books that weighed more than her 5'2" frame. She also spent much of the time whining to Daaaad that she was going to fail. In March, she sent him a message that she had news concerning law school, and he called immediately. "You got kicked out?" She told him, with matching giggles, that she landed at the top of her batch. Dadoo was annoyed that she made him worry all semester, and told her to stop studying too much, that she has nothing left to prove, and that school should not get in the way of the rest of her life.

He did remember to congratulate her a few hours later.

A year ago, I told my Dad I landed a possible scholarship in Australia. My Dad's reply was typical. "*Ang galing naman my baby. Pwede sama ako?*"

Enid Bagnold once said that a father is always making his baby into a little woman. And when she is a woman he turns her back again. I'm guessing these three men will never have to worry about their babies growing up, because we're bound to always run back to brag to Dad—or Dadoo—or Ef. Or whatever daddy's girls call their fathers in the age of MTV.

I'm guessing there must be something particularly different about Daddy's girls, some psychological stereotype that I probably won't understand. What I can say is this, that men who end up with the dubious joy of having ambitious daughters with streaks of madness cannot do better than the three men who are reading this on a Sunday morning. This is written with love and gratitude, and I think I speak for all three of us when I say we're too broke to take you to Father's Day buffet.

Neeks is in Manchester now, Daki is deep in law school again, and my Dad has again resorted to messaging me every day to find out if I'm still alive. But on Saturdays, in the middle of my column-writing, we'd chat over the phone: about Isabela, my sister's year-old kid, with whom he'd just watched the Sound of Music for the third time that day; about what movies I'd just seen; what book I was reading; about whether I needed a loan to pay for groceries; about the column I was in the process of not-writing. The last couple of weeks, he's been casually telling me that Father's Day was Sunday, and I'd say no, Dad, it's in two weeks. And he'd pretend surprise, and I'd pretend innocence, although both of us know that he'd race out the gate on Father's Day on the off chance my column is about the man who would sing "You are the sunshine of my life" to his pudgy daughter while whirling her around the living room floor.

* * *

For comments, just text: PM REBEL name, age, location, message then send to 2948 for Globe/Sun and 3940 for Smart. E-mail at rebel.inquirer@gmail.com

THEY SAID

Real champ

"I am really sad for Roger (Federer). He is a friend and a great champion, whether he wins or loses."

—Rafael Nadal, after winning the tennis French Open

Total backslide

"We had the Edsa Revolt and it became a world model, and after that we were back to Square One."

—Emilio Aguinaldo Suntay III, great grandson of the first President of the Philippines

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TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to
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Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**

Greening of shopping bags

MOST OF THE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS HANDED OUT EVERY DAY TO shoppers across the country end up as garbage. During the rainy season, they clog up waterways, exacerbating flooding in urban centers.

Plastic bags pose a threat not only to the environment but also to public health. Taking a thousand years to disintegrate, plastics gradually release toxins into soil and bodies of water. The dioxin released by plastic bottles and bags has been found to cause cancer.

Environmentalists, entrepreneurs and governments are not taking the problem sitting down.

In France, a woman has invented the Little Big Bag, a stretchable sack designed for carrying groceries, beach or sports equipment, toys and other items. The washable bag can be carried over the shoulder, allowing the contents to hang in front and behind, leaving the owner's hands free.

Demand for the Little Big Bag, which can be compressed into a small pouch to form a mound the size of a tennis ball, has soared, according to a report by the International Herald Tribune.

In the Philippines, the EcoWaste Coalition and the Baguio City Council are promoting the use of "bayong" and other biodegradable containers to replace plastic shopping bags in supermarkets and groceries. Last week, SM launched the GreenBag, a reusable shopping bag aimed at reducing its use of plastic bags.

Encouraging shoppers and retailers to embrace reusable shopping bags makes economic and environmental sense.

Baguio wants 'bayong' used in groceries

By Frank Cimatu

BAGUIO CITY—THIS MOUNTAIN city wants to be the first to require the *bayong* (woven *buri* bag) in all local supermarkets and groceries.

Its proposed paper bag ordinance is set to gradually require all supermarkets, groceries and other retail business establishments here to replace their plastic bags by paper or *buri* bags and other biodegradable containers in packaging dry goods and grocery items.

Now on its third and final reading at the city council, the proposal aims to make these establishments plastic-free in five years.

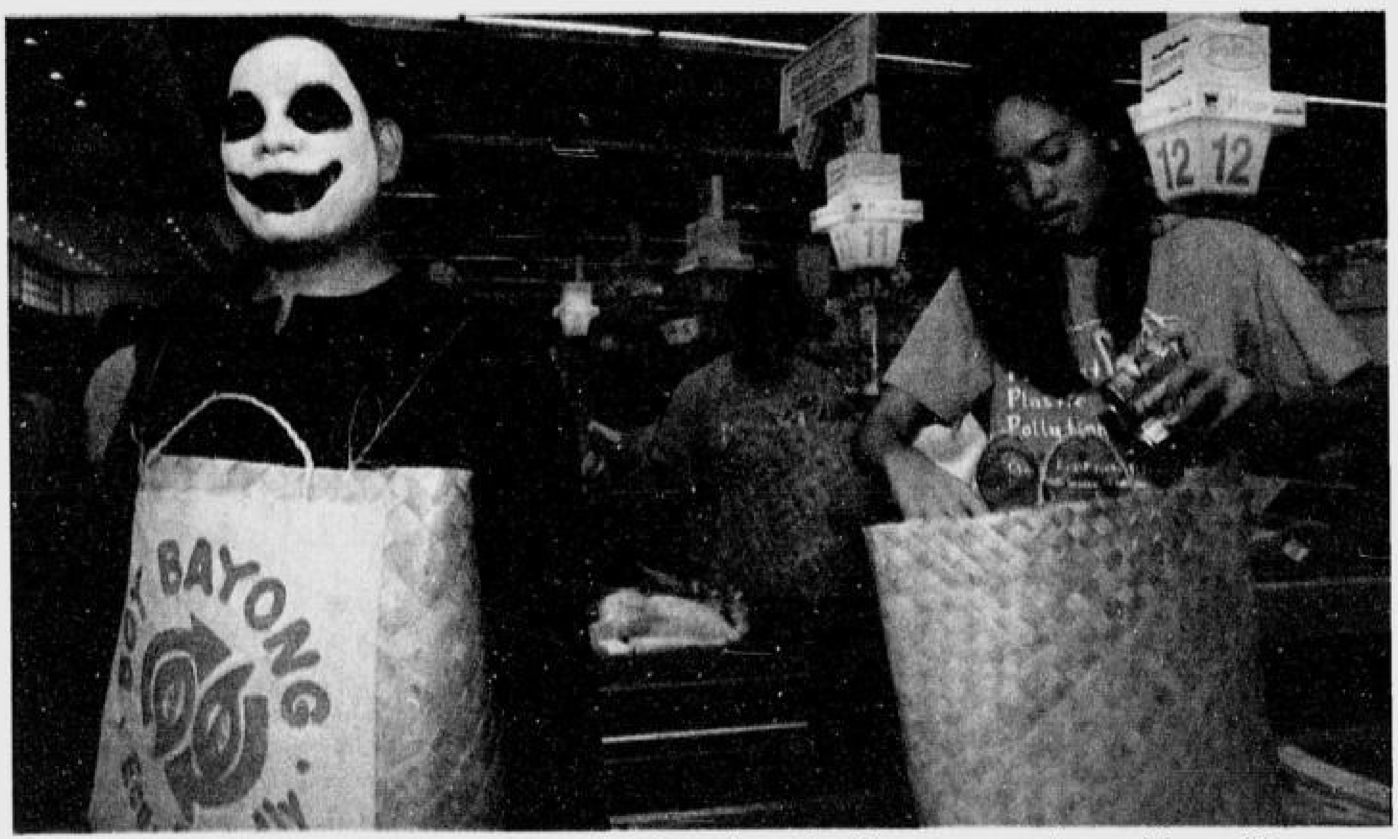
Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. said the measure, which he prefers to call the "Balik Bayong Program," was the city's way of promoting natural packaging as well as the zero-waste management program.

Discount

The city has already partnered with seven recycling companies to make recyclable products out of plastic trash.

"This would include sewing juice packets into new *bayong*. So it's not only the traditional *bayong* made of *buri* but new *bayong* made of trash," he said.

While Bautista admitted that the city was having a hard time persuading business establishments to accept the idea, he said it would be profitable to them in the long run.



BOY Bayong Mascot, Ms Earth Philippines 2006 Cathy Untalan and actor Roy Alvarez promote the use of "bayong" in a supermarket in Quezon City. GIGIE CRUZ/GAIA

He said business owners were complaining about the cost of switching to recyclable bags. "We are thinking of coming out with discount rates for [people] who bring their own *bayong* [to these establishments]," he said.

He said the council was particularly eyeing SM City Baguio, the city's largest shopping mall, for the Balik Bayong Program.

Fast food chains

"SM is our partner in the zero-waste management program. So when we get it for this program, a big chunk of our waste problem is [solved]," he said.

The city also wants to tap local branches of fast food chains. "They would cut cost on packaging and it should be part of their corporate social responsibility to recycle," Bautista said.

He said the city was launching a marketing blitz to promote recyclable bags. With the theme "Bayong is In," the promotion will include the use of billboards and television spots, he said.

"We will also come out with contests in which people spotted using *bayong* and other recycled bags would be given key chains, shirts and other giveaways," he said.

Eros Goze, a local fashion designer, said he would create "fashion bayong" for the program and would also design similar bags for specialty shops.

The Alay sa Kalinisan (ASK) program, which is led by the mayor's father, Reinaldo Bautista Sr., first implemented the Balik Bayong Program in 1998 but the goal was only to encourage its use in the Baguio public market.

The program was well accepted but the ASK could not fully implement it because of a lack of legislation, Bautista said.

Clogged waterways

Councilor Faustino Olowan, who introduced the proposed ordinance, said plastic bags and food wrappers were the main contributor to the clogging of waterways and to litter in the streets.

When Typhoon Feria hit the city in July 2001 and Typhoon Igme in July 2004, Session Road was clogged and the main culprits were again the plastic bags.

Baguio churns out about 260 tons of trash daily, according to Bautista.

"But a huge chunk of this is biodegradable. Admittedly, of the nonbiodegradable, a huge [volume] is composed of plastic bags," he said.

Under the ordinance, business establishments that fail to provide reusable bags will be fined P1,000 on the first violation and P2,500 on the second.

On the third offense, violators will be fined P5,000 and their business permit will be suspended for three months.

Habitual offenders face suspension and their business permit will not be renewed.

Children

Bautista said city officials would ask the more than 500 children selling plastic bags in the city market to switch to peddling *bayong* and other recyclable bags. He said the city would also offer the children and their families other sources of livelihood.

The proposed ordinance also encourages shoppers to provide their own bags to help boost the zero-waste program, he said.

Olowan said under the ordinance, goods sold in the public market's wet section like meat, fish and vegetables may be packed in plastic containers or "sando bags" as long as these are placed in recyclable bags.

He said business establishments that still want to use "plastic bags" can opt for the biodegradable types (like cornstarch-based wrappers) which are, however, more expensive.

'Katsa'

Bautista said these establishments could provide more sturdy bags like those made of cheesecloth (*katsa*) to regular customers who can use them in later visits.

Although the ordinance would be fully implemented by 2012, Bautista said the city would move the deadline earlier if the response was overwhelming.

The Metro Manila-based EcoWaste Coalition, in an assessment made last year of the trash floating on Manila Bay, found that plastic bags as well as synthetic packaging materials like styrofoam make up more than three-fourths of the trash there.

Plastic bags accounted for 51 percent of the trash, EWC said.

Some governments that ban the use of plastic bags fine both the buyers and the sellers.

The states of Maharashtra and Himachi Pradesh in India fine those caught using plastic bags. Others, like Ireland and San Francisco in California, impose a plastic bag levy to encourage the use of recyclables.

(Cimatu is a correspondent of Inquirer Northern Luzon.)

Break the habit

By Manny C. Calonzo

BALIK BAYONG, A CAMPAIGN to bring back the use of native or other reusable carry bags, has been around for years. This is one practical advocacy for the environment that is shared by many diverse groups which see the need to curb the rising "plasticization" of our society.

As an offshoot of a discards survey in Manila Bay by some 50 Greenpeace and EcoWaste Coalition volunteers that gave evidence to the voluminous litter of plastic bags, wrappers and scraps polluting the bay, zero-waste advocates decided to renew the campaign for ecological alternatives to the ubiquitous plastic bags.

To draw wider attention, the EcoWaste Coalition teamed up with celebrities who gladly supported our efforts to inform the public about the adverse effects of plastic bags on the environment.

Together, we sent our message out, loud and clear: Break the mindset, embrace ecological alternatives to plastic bags!

Ms Earth

Among the public figures we partnered with in Balik Bayong were Sen. Pia Cayetano, Rep. Riza Hontiveros-Baraquel, Ms Earth Philippines 2006 Cathy Untalan, actress Chin-Chin Gutierrez, actor Roy Alvarez, and radio-TV personality Tintin Bersola.

Through our eco-advisories, we have reminded consumers to use their purchasing power to make a difference for the environment. Our latest back-to-school advisory, for instance, reminded parents and students to bring reusable carry bags when they shop for school necessities, and to join the growing league of consumers who are saying "no" to plastic bag pollution.

The EcoWaste Coalition's Task Force on Plastics has approached top retailers to persuade them to take leadership in promoting *bayong* and other reusable carry bags as part of their corporate social responsibility.

Besides the environmental benefits, we pointed out that switching from plastics to eco-friendly substitutes could generate sustainable livelihood for marginalized communities.

A major bookstore chain, responding to a questionnaire sent by the Task Force, indicated that it was "in the planning stage" of shifting to environment-friendly packaging materials.

Reduce Your
WASTE
Size.
Zero Was
REUSAB

SEN. Pia Cayetano proudly holds a reusable carry bag. GIGIE CRUZ/GAIA

Our society has yet to take decisive steps to cut what seems to be an addiction to plastic bags and packaging materials. Despite the sorry state of our land, it is still "plastic as usual."

Congress has yet to pass a law that will regulate the use of plastic bags, popularize ecological alternatives, provide rewards for compliance, and penalize violators. However, any legislation would have little effect if not matched with popular education and backed up by a multisectoral movement.

Consumers need to voice out their preference for alternatives to plastic bags. A clamor from consumers will surely make retailers listen and take action even if there is no legislation in place.

Community health

For this to happen, consumers will need to think beyond short-term convenience, recognize the long-term impact of using plastic bags to community health and the environment, and use reusable carry bags with pride.

The EcoWaste Coalition believes that by reducing the use of plastic bags, we help prevent problems associated with plastics such as occupational health and safety, chemical safety, environmental health and climate change issues.

For the sake of a safer and healthier environment, can we all break the plastic bag habit, prevent and minimize waste at all times, and live simply and sustainably?

The heartrending Payatas garbage-slide in 2000 should serve as a reminder that we cannot keep on creating wastes and toxic materials without suffering the consequences.

(Calonzo is the secretary of EcoWaste Coalition.)

Supermarket offers reusable bags

By Kate Pedroso

THE GREENBAG, A REUSABLE shopping bag made of durable nonwoven fabric, was introduced to 29 SM supermarkets across the country last week.

"It's a response to a concern in the environment—shopping bags contributing to solid waste," said Chito Macapagal, vice president for Corporate Development of Unilever Philippines.

SM approached Unilever in January, looking for a partner to help it to launch a reusable shopping bag. The result: a 19-by-17-inch bag—approximately the size of two regular shopping bags. It is the first project of the SM Concerned and Responsible Eco-Shoppers program (SM Cares).

Made of 100-percent polypropylene, the GreenBag may not be biodegradable, but it is recyclable. Polypropylene, also known as PP or Plastic No. 5, is nontoxic and allergy free. It is often used for food containers, toothbrushes and surgical fabrics.

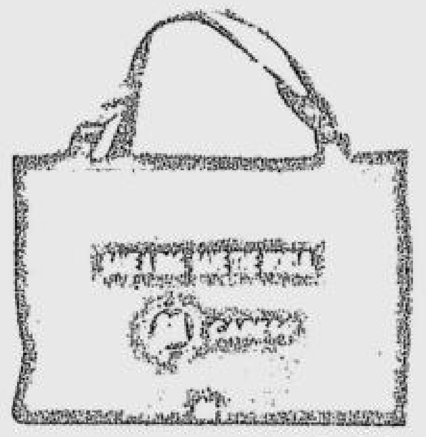
"Our estimate is that one can reuse it for two years for weekly shopping," Macapagal said, adding that SM and Unilever are looking into the possibility of making the bag biodegradable someday.

Imported

The bag is imported from China. "We had to import it initially, but we are hoping we can get a local (source)," Macapagal said.

Since the program started, some 20,000 GreenBags have been imported and distributed to the participating supermarkets. The response was so overwhelming that the supplies ran out in a matter of days.

"A beautiful problem," was how SM and Unilever call it.



THE GREENBAG is a 19-by-17-inch bag made of polypropylene, a nontoxic but nonbiodegradable material.

For the first three months, the two firms targeted around 50,000 bags a month for all the stores. "This is just the initial forecast," said Pong Ejercito, Unilever's vice president for Consumer Development.

Cut use of plastic

"There is that level of environmental consciousness, after all, which is a very good sign," he said.

For its initial run, the bags cost between P3 million and P4 million.

Macapagal said the purpose of the GreenBag was not to eradicate the use of plastic, but to start a new shopping habit—the responsible use of grocery bags among SM supermarket customers.

Yellow tag items

In a year's time, the two companies are hoping that the GreenBags will reduce the volume of plastic bags used in SM supermarkets by 10 to 15 percent. They are targeting a reduction of around 30 percent in the second year, and by 50 percent in the third.

Initially, the bag may be obtained via a promo, which will run until September. Under the promo, every P500 worth of SM Supermarket yellow tag items and at least one Unilever product entitle the customer to one free bag, provided that only one bag can be claimed per visit.

"This is to make sure that as many people can get hold of the bag," said Richie Romero, area customer manager for Unilever.

To encourage the use of the bag, SM Advantage Card holders will get two reward points—equivalent to around P2—every time they use a GreenBag for their groceries, provided that only a maximum of three GreenBags may be used per transaction.

SM Advantage is a customer loyalty program of SM that rewards customers with points for every purchase in its department stores, supermarkets and affiliate stores. The accumulated points can be used to redeem certain items.

"On a regular shopping trip, you only get half a point for every P200 purchase, but the use of a GreenBag gets you 2 points," Macapagal said.

Subsidized

The bags are planned to be sold for a minimal price. "Hopefully, we've generated enough interest for people to be willing to part with a little of their money to buy it themselves, but on a highly subsidized rate," he said.

"What is the value of a consumer having to pay for a green bag? It's their own participation in what you call consumer social responsibility," he said. "When people put in their small amount of contribution, it would mean much more than just getting it as a freebie."

With the reward points system, continued reuse will lead to the bag actually paying for itself.

(Pedroso is on the staff of Inquirer Research.)

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Gov't chief peace negotiator quits; rebels say it's setback

THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT EXpressed fears negotiations for a peace agreement with the government would have to start from scratch again as a result of the resignation of the chief of the government's peace panel, Silvestre Afable.

Afable's resignation came at a time when the government and the MILF were close to restarting talks on a proposed ancestral homeland for 3 million Muslims in Mindanao.

"This is a setback," Mohaqher Iqbal, the rebels' chief peace negotiator, told Reuters in a telephone interview.

"This is not a very good indication. This could affect the entire peace process. At a personal level, we could be starting all over again."

Malacañang has not officially announced Afable's decision to quit the peace panel, where he has served since the two sides agreed to return to negotiations after hostilities erupted in February 2003.

A member of the government peace panel told Reuters he got a mobile phone text message from Afable late on Friday saying he had decided to quit.

Afable gave no reason and it was not known what triggered his decision. Calls to his telephone were not answered.

> 'He was getting frustrated because he was not getting enough support...'

"He was getting frustrated because he was not getting enough support from the President and from her security officials," said another member of the peace panel, who declined to be named.

"He felt there were some people in the Cabinet who were not serious in finding a lasting solution to the Muslim rebellion in the south."

The government has been talking with Muslim rebels to end nearly 40 years of conflict that has killed more than 120,000 people and displaced 2 million in the south of the mainly Roman Catholic country.

Talks over the size and wealth of a proposed Muslim homeland have been stalled since September 2006 although backroom negotiations continued, resulting in a breakthrough in December when Manila agreed to grant Muslims the right of self-determination.

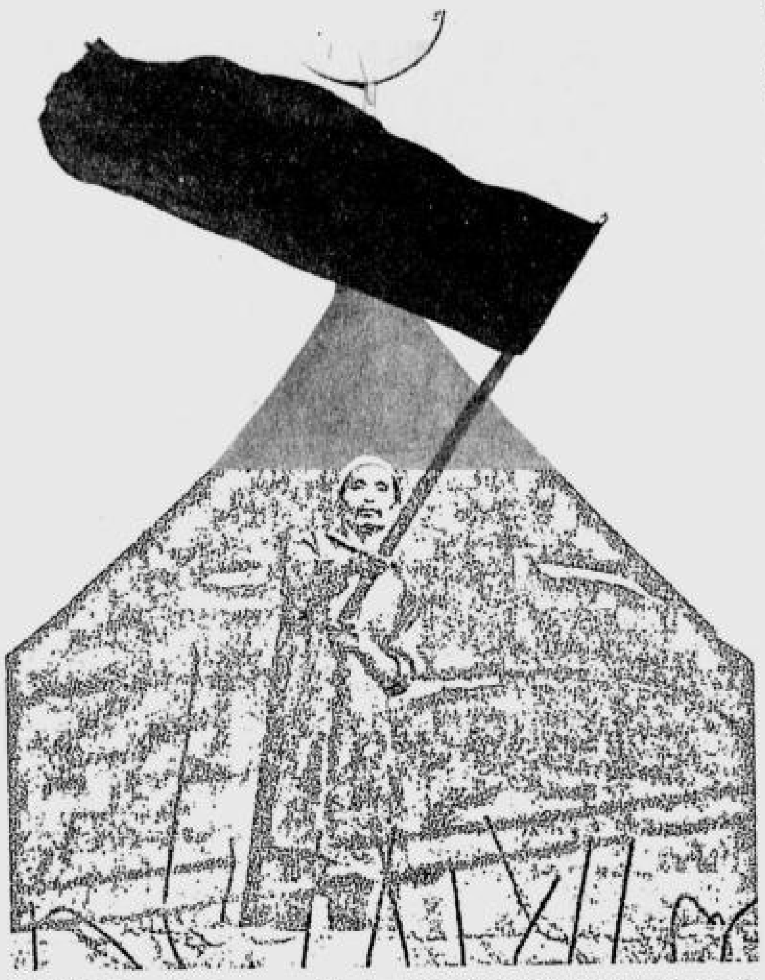
Talks were set to resume in Malaysia in July, negotiators have said.

"We were in the process of wrapping up the details on territory and we were ready to resume negotiations in three to four weeks," said a peace panel member, who expressed surprise over Afable's resignation.

"He was very optimistic about the talks early this week. There was no indication he was leaving us behind. We were caught by surprise. I still have to talk to him about this."

A Malaysian official familiar with the peace process said it was too early to say if Afable's resignation would affect the talks.

"He has been very effective in building trust with MILF leaders," the Malaysian official told Reuters, referring to Afable. "He has contributed a lot in narrowing the gap and has deep understanding of the complexity of the process." *With reports from Inquirer Mindanao and Juliet Labog-Javellana*



A MUSLIM resident waves a flag to dramatize what he and dozens of other residents of a squatter community in Baclaran said was the injustice done to them during the demolition of their homes to pave way for a government project. RAFFY LERMA

Mayor-elect, vice mayor gunned down in N. Ecija

By Anselmo Roque
Inquirer Central Luzon

SAN JOSE CITY—THE NEWLY elected mayor and vice mayor of Lupao, Nueva Ecija, were killed while seven others, including a 9-year-old boy, were wounded on Friday night when armed men shot them in a cockpit arena in this city, police said.

Supt. Peter Guibong, city police chief, said Board Member Alfredo Vendivil Sr., 54, the newly elected mayor of Lupao, and his cousin, vice mayor-elect Virgilio Vendivil, 45, were walking toward the San Jose City Cockpit Arena after a break in a cockfight derby when they were attacked by a group of three to five men at 11:30 p.m.

15 bullet wounds

Reports said Alfredo took at least 15 bullet wounds in the head and body while Virgilio had seven bullet wounds. The suspects, police said, were armed with .45 cal., .38 cal. and 9 mm guns.

The seven wounded were among the 1,500 spectators of the derby organized by the Vendivils.

The arena is about 500 meters west of the city proper and 14 km from Lupao.

Among the wounded was Manuel Vendivil, 37, another relative of the victims. The wounded boy was identified as Michael Jordan Yanguas, a resident of this city. It was not known why he was in the cockpit at that time.

Lupao Councilor Rolando Bantigue, another relative of the Vendivils, said he was in the cockpit at the time of the attack but did not witness the shooting.

Nothing wrong

He said he talked to Alfredo before the derby that started at about 8:30 p.m. and did not sense that something was wrong.

"[Alfredo] was kind, always took a low profile and was not heard saying he was receiving death threats. He had a civilian aide on Friday night but the aide was not carrying a gun. The aide told me he saw the face of one of the gunmen but he did not recognize him," Bantigue told the INQUIRER on Saturday.

Bantigue said Alfredo, a former Lupao mayor and councilor, defeated incumbent Lupao Mayor Alexander Joanino in the May 14 elections.

Son killed, too

Alfredo, according to Bantigue, was a farmer and truck driver before he entered politics.

His son, Alfredo Jr., 34, was shot and killed in August last year by unidentified suspects near his house in Barangay Cordero in Lupao.

Senior Supt. Alfredo Caballes, acting Nueva Ecija police director, has formed a task force to investigate the killings and arrest the suspects.

Bayan Muna leader fighting for life after gun attack

By Kit Bagaipo
Inquirer Visayas

TAGBILARAN CITY—A single assailant shot and critically wounded Bayan Muna-Bohol secretary general Mario Auxillo shortly before midnight Friday at the public market of Bien Unido town in Bohol.

Auxillo, 50, a resident of Barangay Kabiguhan, Trinidad town, had just finished a meeting with fishermen at around 11:30 p.m. when the assailant shot him twice, hitting him in the head and left arm, according to Auxillo's sister, Gregoria.

As of 8 a.m. Saturday, doctors at the Governor Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital in Tagbilaran City have still to operate on Auxillo, said Gregoria Auxillo Salces.

Critical condition

His condition remained critical as one bullet was still lodged in his jaw, Salces said in an interview.

Auxillo lost his bid for the 2nd district seat in the Bohol provincial board during the last elections.

Bayan Muna Bohol coordinator John Ruiz III said that since last year, "a smear campaign [was launched] against (Auxillo) by Mata na Bol-anon Movement, believed to be military-backed."

Ruiz said the Mata na Bol-anon Movement has been labeling Auxillo as a manipulator of the people and with connections to the New People's Army. Leaflets maligning Auxillo were also distributed in Bohol's northern towns, he said.

While the initial police reports revealed that the gunman was a civilian, "a military connection could not be ruled out" as the "massive smear campaign and black propaganda against the victim by military propagandist had put his life under constant threat," Ruiz said.

The Philippine Army's 15th Infantry Battalion allegedly attacked Bayan Muna, local farmers' organization Humabol and Auxillo during a meeting in Trinidad town with rebel returnees, Ruiz said.

Militant group leaders here have reported about "an organized surveillance" against them and some of their members.

Less than a year ago in August 2006, Bayan-Bohol chair Victor Olayvar was shot dead in Danao town, after meeting with some farmers' groups. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

THE BODY of vice mayor-elect Virgilio Vendivil is taken out of a cockpit in Lupao, Nueva Ecija, after a gun attack that also killed the elected mayor of the town, Alfredo Vendivil. RAFFY LERMA

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On the road to English proficiency

A MUSLIM student in Midsayap, North Cotabato starts the school year right with a good hobby—reading books.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Kalimang Baitang
QUEZON

PUPILS in Midasayap, North Cotabato, bid goodbye to **USAID** officials who turned over materials and books designed to improve English proficiency not only among students, but also teachers.

By Edwin O. Fernandez
Kapinpilan, Midsayap, North Cotabato

SIXTY-ONE-YEAR-OLD FATIMA Pilas, principal of Kapinpilan Central Elementary School, entered her school in this remote village "heavily equipped" with stuff she believed would make a difference among fifth and sixth graders.

"I have the needed skills and educational aid that would help our pupils understand and speak English better," Pilas, a teacher of 34 years, proudly said during the school opening last week.

"My dream of having elementary graduates here who would go to higher levels equipped with good command of English is almost realized. I will do my best to achieve that dream," she said as she received books and multimedia teaching aids from representatives of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

> 'Unless you do your work, nothing happens ...'

War torn

Pilas' school, situated in the war-torn village of Kapinpilan in Midsayap town, North Cotabato, is a recipient of USAID's Education Quality and Access for Learning and Livelihood Skills (EQuALLS) project.

"These materials and the generosity of USAID would make a difference among our pupils," she said, adding that the beneficiaries, fifth and sixth graders, are all Muslims who have difficulty in written and oral English.

Aside from lack of educational materials, Pilas said her pupils "are behind as far as English is concerned due to man-made calamities."

The classes in Kapinpilan Central Elementary School and in nearby villages have been interrupted by recurring armed confrontations between government forces and Moro rebels.

"Even if the conflict is gone, we could not immediately resume classes because our classrooms were used as evacuation centers," she said, recalling how difficult it was for teachers and students to conduct classes after the conflict had subsided.

Peace benefits

With the peace process between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) gaining headway, Pilas said they could now concentrate on their classes.

"Before I retire, I would like to see Muslim graduates of this school armed with a good command of English," she said.

The New York-based Real World Production, USAID's partner in the EQuALLS program, has come up with a system that would help teachers teach English effectively through hundreds of books on Improving English Language Teaching and Learning in Mindanao (IELTLM), compact discs and CD players.

The project has so far benefited about 80,000 pupils all over Mindanao, according to Dr. Thomas Crehan, USAID chief of education. He said USAID has committed $53 million until 2011 for this project alone.

Crehan said Midsayap is only one of several areas where EQuALLS is being implemented.

Teachers' training

Before the school year ended in March, hundreds of elementary teachers from Midsayap's four districts have undergone training on how to use the recorded audio dramas and interactive language teaching segments to enhance their English proficiency and English teaching skills, according to Stuart Leigh, Real World Productions executive director.

"These 68 public school teachers and 35 school administrators are now well-equipped with skills and vital instruments that could make a difference to pupils as far as oral and written English are concerned," Leigh told the INQUIRER.

IELTLM, a component of the EQuALLS Project, has been providing material support and teachers' training to enrich English language teaching for elementary Grades 5 and 6, and for the first two years of high school through the use of audio materials and integrated "Listener's Guides and Teacher's Guides."

The guides provide useful general language teaching advice and instructions, including the use of localized cultural notes.

'Do it with a heart'

"Budget-wise EQuALLS is actually the biggest education project worldwide that USAID has at present, which focuses on improving the quality of elementary education, establishing a viable and relevant alternative learning system for out-of-school children and youth (OSCY) and gives assistance to selected Madaris (Islamic school) to integrate the revised basic education curriculum," Janice Sevilla, EQuALLS communications officer, said.

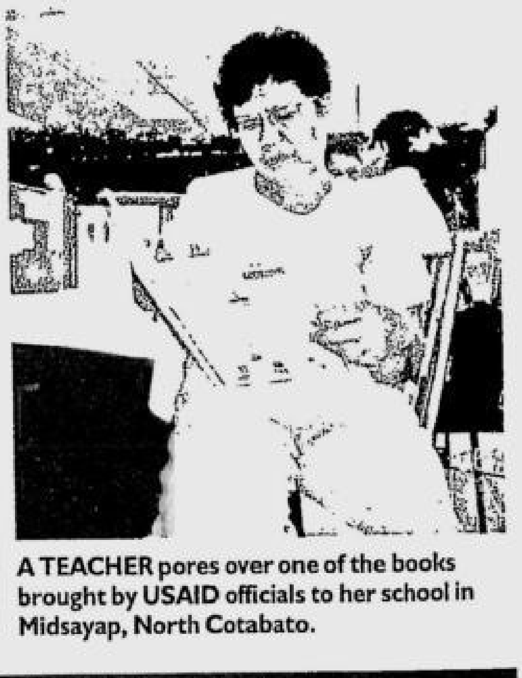
Crehan told school administrators and teachers here that "we have to work together for us to help your students."

Saying the United States is pouring in $500-million this year in educational aid all over the Philippines, Crehan challenged the public school teachers to make use of the program effectively and "do it with a heart."

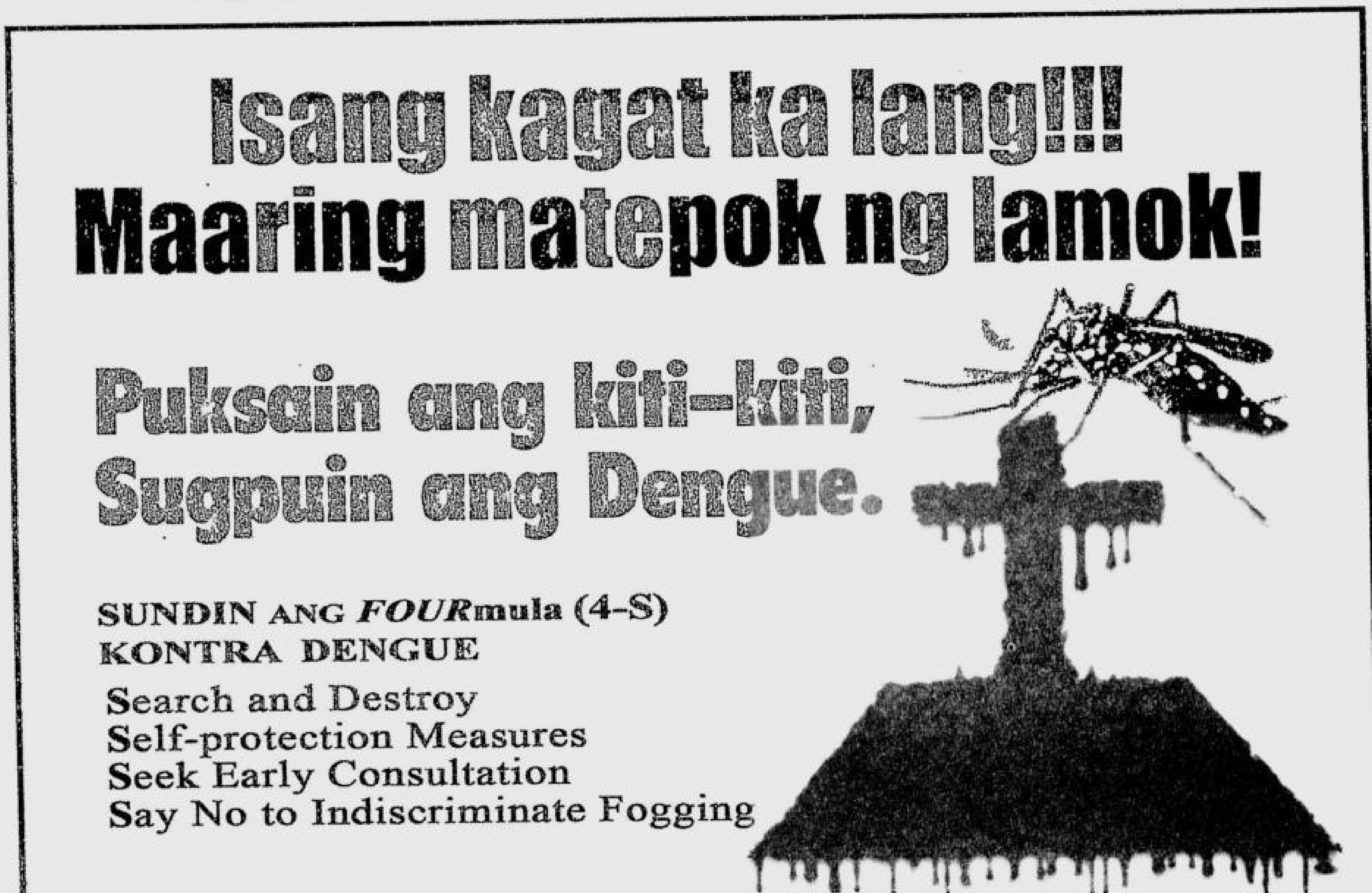
"If students have viable future, it's going to be a more peaceful world ... you here in Midsayap would be better off if there is peace," Crehan said.

Leigh also urged the parents in Midsayap to "perform your roles at home by simply listening to Real World Productions radio dramas."

"Unless you do your work, nothing happens," Crehan agreed.



A TEACHER pores over one of the books brought by USAID officials to her school in Midsayap, North Cotabato.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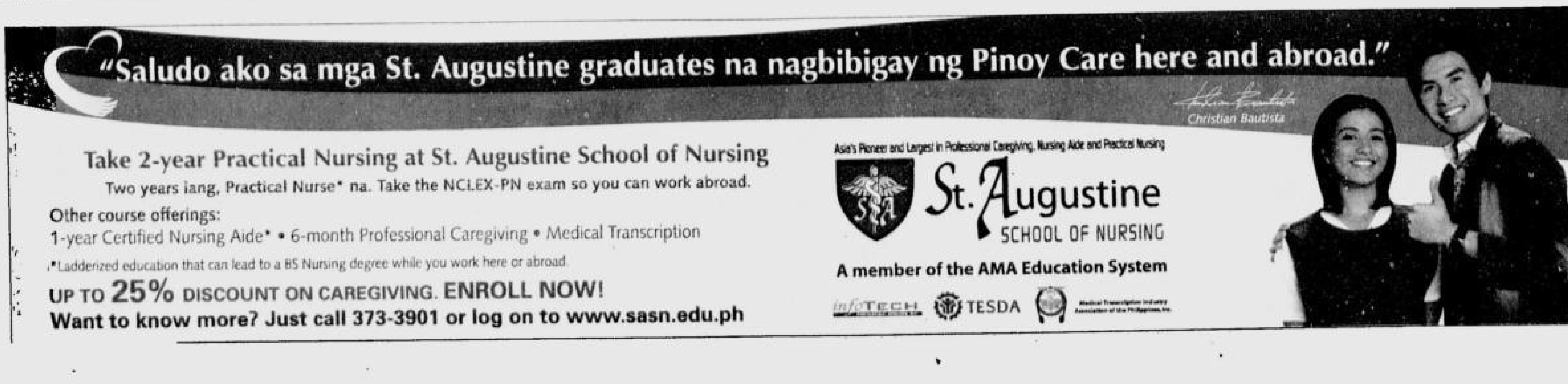
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Mother's Day . . .

From page A1

"We do more business on Mother's Day. More people come to our restaurants, more families make reservations or turn up on the day itself," says Raymund Magdaluyo, manager and part owner of Red Crab and Heaven 'N Eggs group of companies.

The Red Crab chain offers an all-seafood menu while Heaven 'N Eggs offer breakfast meals all day.

However, Magdaluyo says, mothers do not rule the tills all the time. "In the nine years that we have been in the business, there are years when Father's Day sales are better."

The entrepreneur says this was the case in 2005 but the following year was a "Mother's Day year."

"We have also observed that families now reserve tables closer and closer to the day itself [so it is hard to predict how sales would be a few days before the occasion]," he says. "But I believe that this year, Father's Day could, at best, equal the traffic of last month's Mother's Day."

Magdaluyo is also director and co-owner of Cafe Ten Titas and Sumo Sam and part owner of Crustasia, Blackbeard's Seafood Island, Cocorama Pancake Island and All-Day Groovy Cafe, HulaHula Seafood and Barbecue House, and ClawDaddy Crab House and American Grill.

Significant factor

A significant factor for the intermittent rise of Father's Day sales vis a vis Mother's Day spending was that more mothers plan the family outing than the fathers.

"Women tend to be more deliberate in planning, which means eating out on Father's Day. Whereas men, who organize Mother's Day celebrations, do it at the last minute, and often times, they end up eating in," he says.

Magdaluyo says the stronger turnover for Father's Day is also affected by the growing financial independence of women.

"That gives them the means and greater flexibility to arrange a family day for dads," he says.

Over the years, Magdaluyo and his business partners have observed a "democratization" of the observance of these special occasions.

"Compared to the 1990s when only the high income segment would celebrate, more people are eating out on Mother's Day and Father's Day," he says.

Resto scene fluid

However, Magdaluyo says, it is difficult to spot a real trend because the restaurant scene is very fluid. There are new restaurants opening every year and people will want to try them for the experience.

"There are many new places which opened these past months—Fort Bonifacio's High Street in Taguig City, Trinoma in Quezon City, and other areas where there are one-outlet restaurants which people want to try," he says.

Magdaluyo is sure of one thing— in any celebration, food is essential while gifts are optional.

"Expenses related to these special occasions are more evident in restaurant bills than in non-food purchases," he says.

Chelo Monasterio, vice president for operations of SM Department Stores, agrees with his observation.

"Not all sections of our stores showed peaking sales figures in the week before Mother's Day," Monasterio says.

More emotional

She adds that Father's Day sales are usually stronger but the numbers cannot be attributed solely to the celebrations.

"We cannot readily isolate the numbers that directly reflect Mother's Day or Father's Day spending. This is especially true for Father's Day because it coincides with school opening which certainly ,makes for stronger sales," Monasterio says.

Still, she believes that Mother's Day celebrations are "more emotional" compared to that of Father's Day.

Palace names new peace negotiator

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENTIAL PEACE ADVISER Jesus Dureza has announced that Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr., chief government negotiator in the peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, will be replaced by Bro. Eliseo Mercado, OMI.

This after Malacañang confirmed Afable's resignation yesterday *(Related story on Page A15.)*

Dureza described Mercado as an "experienced peace builder in Mindanao."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Afable tendered his resignation after talking with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"After three years of a largely unbroken ceasefire and significant advances toward a final peace agreement, he can now hand over to his soon-to-be-named successor a negotiating position that is closer than ever to finally ending decades of conflict in the south and launching a new era of peace and progress for Muslim Mindanao," Bunye said in a statement before Dureza announced Mercado's appointment.

Bunye said Afable would still be an adviser to the panel.

AFABLE: Resignation accepted

Prayers storm heavens

From page A1

cue of Bossi.

The MILF said on Friday that it had discovered a speedboat that was used in the abduction.

According to the military, a 15-member armed group is believed to be holding Bossi in the mountainous Mamagun area in Zamboanga Sibugay.

Missionaries' courage

Castalone praised the courage of foreign missionaries, adding that many of them had been ministering to residents of remote places in the archipelago and were often unconcerned about their safety.

"They are sent to far-flung areas to proclaim Christ, whether they are accepted or not by their immediate communities," she said.

There are 776 foreign priests and brothers and 899 nuns, mostly of Italian descent, assigned to various parts of the country, according to Castalone.

Bossi is the third Italian missionary abducted in the Philippines since 1998.

The first was Fr. Luciano Benedetti, also of PIME, who was released after over two months in 1988. Fr. Guiseppe Pierantoni of the Sacerdotes Cordis Jesu was abducted in 2001 and eventually escaped from his captors.

Last April 1, Indonesian missionary Franſiskus Madhu of the Society of the Divine Word was killed by armed men while waiting to celebrate Palm Sunday Mass at a remote village in Kalinga province.

BOSSI: Endlessly missed.

Kiddie

The abductors of Bossi, who has been working in Central Mindanao since 1980, are believed by Dolorfino to have been led by Abdusalam Akkidin, aka Commander Kiddie, a self-styled commander of an armed group in the region.

Akkidin denied this in a phone interview by contributor Arlyn de la Cruz, saying in Filipino:

"I'm famous here now, and they are making me more famous. That's why I'm always being blamed. But I didn't abduct the priest. I can help in the search if they like, and if the priest is still in Sibugay."

Akkidin also said he was confused as to why he was being easily pinpointed as a suspect.

He said that sometime in the past, a unit of the Armed Forces of the Philippines reported in the media that he was killed in one encounter.

"They killed me in that TV report. Now I'm again alive because there has been another kidnapping," he said.

Akkidin is a Tausug, a former commander of Nur Misuari's Moro National Liberation. Front who was assigned to Central Mindanao and later joined field commanders of the MILF shortly after the signing of the 1996 peace agreement between the government and the MNLF.

Out of Sibugay

Despite Akkidin's denial, a source from the police intelligence community said: "Our information was that one of [Kiddie's] men, someone very close to him, initiated the abduction. And by this time, they may have passed Bossi to another armed group, possibly the Abu Sayyaf."

The source said, they were now studying the possibility that Bossi was now out of Zamboanga-Sibugay.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu also raised that possibility on the phone: "As far as the MILF and Sibugay area is concerned, *wala na dito* (he's no longer here). *Gumalaw na ang mga* field commanders *namin* (Our field commanders have moved) and this seems to be the information that we are getting."

Kabalu gave six names of persons who, he said, were possibly directly responsible for Bossi's abduction. Of the six names, two were previously identified as members of the Abu Sayyaf, according to a military source.

At this point, however, there is no official statement from any Abu Sayyaf leader or commander claiming responsibility for Bossi's abduction.

Media played activist role in election victories

From page A1

senatorial candidates.

The news media also brought much needed clout to the nationwide efforts of civic groups to protect the accuracy of the electoral results and expose attempts to modify them, which could have succeeded without the prying eyes of media.

Skillful use of media

The Trillanes campaign was particularly instructive of the skillful use of media to compensate for his inability to campaign. Detained on mutiny charges, Trillanes was unable to even tell voters he was a candidate.

Oyie Averilla, a professor at the Asian Institute of Management and an adviser to Trillanes, detected in a survey that although many voters did not know that Trillanes was running, a large number of those who did indicated they would vote for him. This meant a high "conversion ratio" of awareness levels to actual votes, in the jargon of political strategists.

So the job of electing Trillanes was cut out for his strategists: increase the awareness level of the candidate and most of this would translate into votes.

"The public was not aware that he was running for the Senate," recalled Sen. Jamby Madrigal, whose successful second attempt to get elected to the Senate was itself media-driven.

"I then took the first step of publicly endorsing him in media advertisements to raise the people's awareness and eventually covert this to votes," she said.

An aide of Madrigal said the senator also bankrolled the advertising campaign for Trillanes.

Madrigal recalled that during three visits to Trillanes' cell during the campaign, the two had "extensive discussions on governance ... and the sad state of politics today. We both agreed to work on a common reform agenda ... We will walk our talk."

GUARDING THE BALLOT: 2007 elections will go down in Philippine history as the year the news media turned from being observer and reporter to watchdog and participant in the electoral process. They also brought clout to nationwide efforts of civic groups to protect the vote.

Miracle in Pampanga

Having learned her own painful lessons in two senatorial campaigns, Madrigal did not stop there. She mobilized poll watchers to help guard Trillanes' votes.

To protect his votes, Panlilio mobilized 30,000 volunteers and more than 300 lawyers in his successful run for the governorship of Pampanga.

"Fortunately enough, we had the media. We only had 45 days to prepare but the media [were] always there to help. We got a chance to explain our crusade to the people. The people had the chance to reflect on our crusade, understand it, and later own it. They became our campaign managers," said Panlilio.

The INQUIRER had Panlilio on its front page no less than five times during the campaign, in eight-column headlines and pictures that spanned the front page.

Chief opposition strategist

Two memorable images come to mind: Panlilio being held aloft on his supporters' shoulders amid a sea of candles during the final campaign rally, and rosaries held high by his volunteers, recalling the first Edsa people power revolution, during the vigil for the canvassing of votes.

"Priest stirs people power," read the first of the INQUIRER headlines. Then, "Light of new RP politics," "Panlilio campaign awesome," and finally, "Miracle in Pampanga."

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III is the perfect strategist. He is a man of few words, who keeps his cards close to his chest.

Osmeña took over as opposition campaign manager midway through the campaign. And then he had to take a few days off to have an angioplasty procedure.

Team Unity campaign manager Reli German openly admitted on television he hoped Osmeña had stayed longer in hospital.

The quintessential strategist, Osmeña downplays his role.

"We were left with coordinating efforts and doing things that the individual candidates could not do, like commissioning a survey that helped them, I hope," he said.

The survey led to omnibus thematic campaign ads that hit the administration hard on poverty, corruption, human rights abuses and rising prices. The survey had tapped into a lode of widespread voter disenchantment and resonated with unexpressed voter sentiment. It led to senatorial results that exceeded the 6-4-2 (GO-TU-Independent) predictions of the poll surveys.

But Osmeña thought otherwise. "People still vote based on personalities. If this had been bloc voting, we would have a 12-0 result," he said.

He allowed that the traditional style of campaigning like "shaking hands and kissing babies" might still work, but was not efficient anymore in a media-driven society.

Battle of spokespersons

In his earlier run for the Senate, Osmeña pioneered in the use of radio to extend his reach. Since then, he has become more adept in the use of modern communication technologies.

Osmeña, who is stepping down as senator on June 30, said he would catch up on his reading. He will be back.

Osmeña's clever stewardship of the opposition campaign was nowhere more evident than in the clash of the party spokesmen: GO's Adel Tamano vs TU's Tonypet Albano.

When he first burst into the political scene, Tamano, who got his boyish good looks from his mom and his late father, former Sen. Mamintal Tamano, was greeted as the new "crush *ng bayan*" (heartthrob) by the distaff side of media. He was perfect for his role.

Even-tempered and always smiling, Tamano was "cool" in the lexicon of the Marshall McLuhan age of media. Albano, on the other hand, was "hot"—brass, aggressive, whose mode of communication was more suited to the fire-and-brimstone style of fiery preachers of another time and place.

Actors schooled in stagecraft have to learn to tone down their theatrical gestures when switching to film. What works on stage looks intrusive when viewed on film or in the privacy of a television set. Tamano was a natural, Albano the perfect foil.

The classic battle came to a head midway through the campaign at a weekly "Kapihan sa Senado" organized by journalists. Before the program started, photographers had coaxed the protagonists to pose in the familiar bare-knuckled, closed-fist style of boxers before a title fight. Since the boxing term "handlers" had anyway crept into the political vocabulary as a more descriptive word for campaign spokespersons, the pose was perfect to get the ball rolling. Then the verbal fireworks erupted.

Tamano expressed surprise that a non-Muslim candidate like Luis "Chavit" Singson, a Team Unity candidate from Ilocandia, could place No. 1 in the Maguindanao elections for senator, even eclipsing a Muslim candidate, Sultan Jamalul Kiram, as the TU juggernaut scored a 12-0 rout of the opposition candidates.

Albano bristled at the suggestion of vote manipulation and accused Tamano of inflicting a "racial slur" on the Christian Singson. He demanded an apology. Tamano, himself a Muslim, was incredulous. Columnists would later facetiously point out that Albano had used the wrong word; instead of "racist," he should have said "bigot," if that was what he meant.

Verbal joust

The verbal joust continued. Tamano refused to apologize, kept his cool, and maintained a beatific smile on his handsome face. Albano continued his assault. He said Tamano should not be surprised at how a Christian could be No. 1 in Maguindanao because there was no war between Christians and Muslims.

Pressing what he perceived to be an advantage, Albano complained that Tamano had been calling him and the TU candidates names throughout the campaign. "He never addressed us by our names," Albano said, his voice increasing in pitch and cadence. "He just called us *tuta* [puppies]. It's sacrilegious!" No one suggested a better word for that one.

The debate ended. Tamano and Albano shook hands; in the style of pugilists after a fight; then left the room.

The beatific smile never left Tamano's face as he sauntered out. Only this time, the smile was on the verge of becoming a Mona Lisa smile. But he caught himself in time. He knew he had won this round.

Part 2: Lessons from the trenches

(The author is the founding CEO of the Institute for Policy Research and Strategic Studies. For comments, e-mail mibc2006@gmail.com.)

Kids meet Odysseus, boy named Pilo at Inquirer

GREEK HERO ODYSSEUS AND A boy named Pilo were just two of the characters that enthralled children and parents alike in the third session of the INQUIRER Read-Along held on Saturday.

Over 40 children were treated to a three-part storytelling session, which featured young stars Sam Concepcion and Cheska Ortega and volunteer storyteller Rich Rodriguez from Alitaptap Storytellers Phils.

Concepcion and Ortega, who top-bill the upcoming Philippine stage adaptation of Disney's "High School Musical," read "Odysseus and the Cyclops" and "The Maiden Who Defeated the King," respectively. Rodriguez read "Pilong Patago-tago."

First-time storytellers Concepcion and Ortega said they found the experience "great."

At 14, Concepcion said he read books that his elder brother suggested to him. "My brother's a bookworm," he said. "He reads Neil Gaiman and stuff, so I end up reading them, too," adding that he'll read anything he found interesting.

For her part, Cheska's reading list include Harry Potter and Gossip Girl. "I love chick lit," she said. Asked who motivated her to read, she readily answered: "My mom. She says I should read at least one book a week."

Wacky and interactive

On the other hand, experienced storyteller Rodriguez drew laughs and giggles from the audience with his wacky and interactive retelling of "Pilong Patago-tago."

"The story is in Filipino. I had to translate the story into English myself," he said after the session.

Lively and funny, Rodriguez said this was his way of keeping his audience interested. "What kids need right now is interactive, relaxed, conversational storytelling," he said of his technique.

A secondary education graduate, Rodriguez, 22, said he devotes most of his weekends to promoting reading among children through storytelling sessions with Alitaptap. "If all the parents in the Philippines would know how to read that way, no kid would be bored," he said.

After reading about the activity in the INQUIRER, Queenie Banta came to the read-along with her nephews Ranniel and Nathan. "For children who'd rather log on to the Internet, Friendster and Multiply these days, this is a good way to encourage them to read," she said.

Role models

"For kids who are difficult to persuade [to read], maybe seeing their role models reading just might do the trick," she added.

Asked how his first storytelling session went, Ranniel gave a wide grin and a thumbs-up sign.

The next INQUIRER Read-Along will be held on June 30 with basketball star Olsen Racela doing the honors.

Interested participants may contact Ellen Caparros or Girlie Refran at tel. 897-8808, local 329. Slots are available on a first-come, first-served basis. *Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research*

ACTOR SAM CONCEPCION answers the children's questions after he read "Odysseus and the Cyclops" to them at the INQUIRER on Saturday.

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Praying ladies of Quiapo

By Tina G. Santos

MANDARASALS sit quietly at the back of the church while waiting for a customer.
REM ZAMORA

EVERY FRIDAY, ALING SOCORRO, 45, TRAVELS from her house in Pampanga to Quiapo Church in Manila.

But instead of reciting the novena to the Black Nazarene or walking to the altar on her knees, she asks one of several "prayer ladies"—a group of middle-aged or elderly women seated on plastic chairs at the back of the church—to say a prayer on her behalf.

The group of women is known to most Quiapo devotees as "mandarasal" — a person who prays for other people for a fee.

Not that she doesn't know how to pray, Aling Socorro explained. "I just want somebody to help me pray for my intentions," she told INQUIRER in Filipino. "I believe that the more people are praying for you, the better. It's sort of an extra push to make sure that my prayers will be answered."

Aling Socorro handed the elderly *mandarasal* P100 and a sandwich. But she quickly added that the money was not payment but a "gift."

She told the INQUIRER with a smile that so far, all the wishes that she has asked her favorite *mandarasal* to pray for have been granted.

"Every time I have a problem, I always go to my 'suki' (regular) for help," she said. "Like when my daughter was seriously ill or when my son was about to take up the board exam, things like that."

Job passed on

Nobody knows how the *mandarasals* came to be. According to Evelyn dela Cruz, president of the church's dozen or so "prayer ladies," like most of her colleagues, the "job" was passed on to her.

A mother of six grown-up children, Dela Cruz, 51, said she became a *mandarasal* as soon as she got married at the age of 14.

"My grandmother-in-law taught me how; I always accompanied her to 'work.' When she died, most of her *suki* told me that I should replace her, so here I am now," she recalled, adding that *mandarasal* only exists or is "tolerated" in Quiapo Church.

Holding rosaries, the *mandarasals* sit on small plastic chairs at the back of the 16th-century cathedral every day, waiting for "clients" to approach them. Each of them has a notebook where they jot down their clients' names and prayer petitions.

Dela said that their customers are as varied as the requests or petitions which they are asked to pray for.

"People of all ages, genders and from all walks of life come to us," she said. "My clients include students who want to pass an exam, girls who became pregnant or had an abortion or people who broke off with their girlfriend or boyfriend. Some pray for a sick family member, a troubled marriage, personal safety, or the repose of the soul of a departed loved one," she added.

Most of their clients are poor, Dela Cruz noted, "maybe, because the poor have more problems." But she quickly added that there are also rich people who come to them. "Our rich clients usually pray for additional capital for their businesses, or for their businesses to prosper or about their missing properties."

A vow

She refused to divulge how much she earns a day from working as a *mandarasal*. "I don't do this for a living. For me, this is a *panata* (vow)," Dela Cruz, wife of a former overseas Filipino worker, said.

On the other hand, 68-year-old Catalina Altares, or Aling Nenet to her patrons, one of the oldest *mandarasals* in Quiapo, admitted that she needs to work in order to survive.

"This is where I get money for my food and medicines," Altares said, adding that she also buys medicines for her two sons and a granddaughter who are suffering from different illnesses.

But Altares was quick to add that like Dela Cruz, she doesn't charge a fixed rate. "I receive whatever amount they give me. I have no problem with that," she said, adding that some of her clients give her food.

To many devout Filipino Catholics, hiring someone else to perform such a basic act of piety may be wrong.

Strictly speaking, according to Fr. Alvin Fullon, assistant parish priest of Quiapo Church and chaplain of the Nazareth Catholic School, *mandarasals* should not be tolerated.

"First of all, they hang around in churches. And others look at what they do as a business, it gives people the impression that it's a 'pay for pray' business," he told INQUIRER over the phone.

"But the church tries to understand them," Fullon said. "It's not any different from when we have a problem and we ask a friend, 'please pray for me.'"

The only difference is, he said, the *mandarasals* are given something in return—whether in cash or in kind.

Fullon also said that Quiapo Church has no written rules imposed upon the *mandarasals*.

"For as long as they observe and follow the basic norms inside the church, they respect the sacredness of the place, no one would drive them away," he said, adding that they also encourage the "prayer warriors" to join other organizations of the church.

Allowing them inside the church is also one way of keeping them away from vices, he explained. "Instead of letting them engage in rumor-mongering or gambling and other vices, in their own little way, they help others through prayers."

But one good thing about the *mandarasals*, Fullon said, is that, in a way, they have become "catechists."

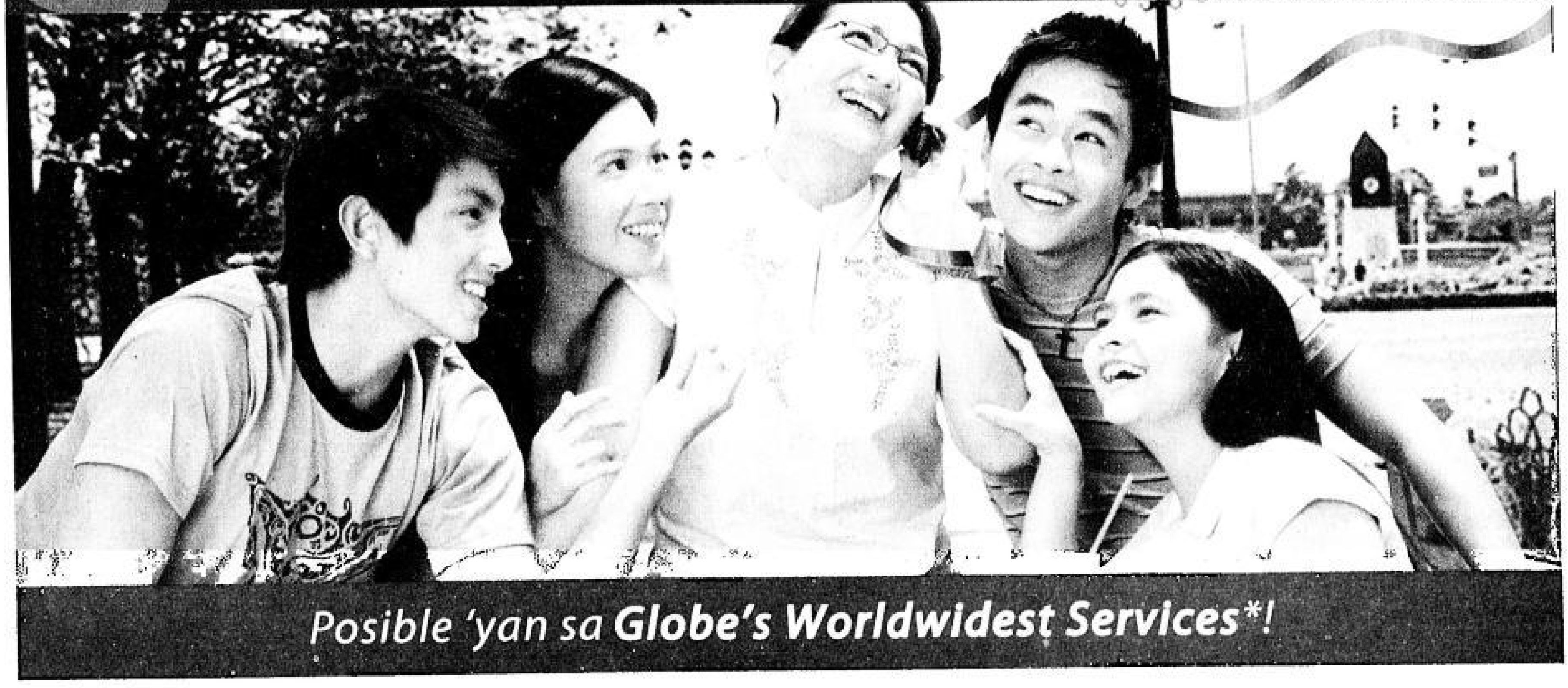
"Some people visit the *mandarasals* simply because they don't know how to pray and they want to be taught how to do it," he said.

True enough, Altares claimed that some people, including men, come to her to learn how to say the rosary.

But at the end of the day, Dela Cruz, Altares and their colleagues were one in saying that more than the financial and material "gifts," what was more rewarding was that they helped people get answers for their prayers.

"Many people come back to us to thank us because their prayers were heard," Dela Cruz said.

"Ngayong Father's Day, sana lahat kami pwedeng mangulit kay Papa sa Malaysia!"



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"If only the [job] market for medicine graduates were good in the Philippines ... Regretfully, I and many other doctors have chosen to become nurses abroad because the pay here is no longer commensurate to what they have attained in the profession. It has become a trend."
ELMER JACINTO, *Medical board topnotcher, 2004*

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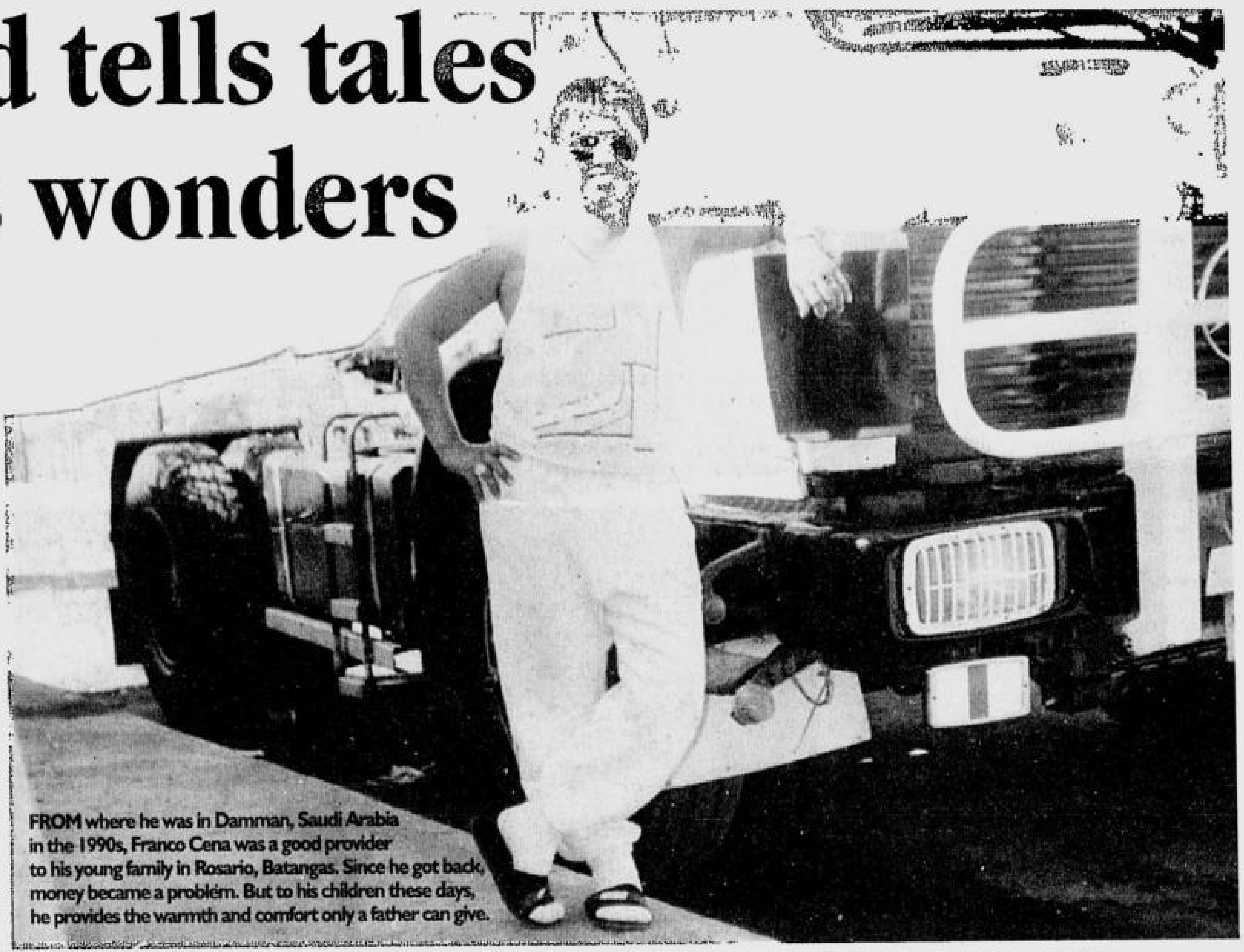
This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

An OFW child tells tales of Christmas wonders

By Emman Cena



FROM where he was in Damman, Saudi Arabia in the 1990s, Franco Cena was a good provider to his young family in Rosario, Batangas. Since he got back, money became a problem. But to his children these days, he provides the warmth and comfort only a father can give.

DURING MY CHILDHOOD, EVERY MORNING was like Christmas morning several times a year. But instead of Santa Claus swinging his huge, red sack full of toys and other goodies, my family would get *balikbayan* boxes delivered right at our doorstep.

And though I never believed that Santa really did exist, I had Santa who was then working in Saudi Arabia.

My Santa would send our family in Rosario, Batangas the newest toys and gadgets that easily made us the envy of our neighborhood.

My Santa provided for us and enabled me to have a lavish childhood. Even as a young boy, I donned the trendiest clothes. I could imagine having the first twinkling and squeaking rubber shoes to boot! I had it first among my playmates, for crying out loud!

Life without father

My father, or "Ama" as we call him, worked as a company driver for almost 15 years. He saw us grow through pictures sent to him. He would have a break from work but would soon fly away again after a month. I could speak with him through the phone or I would record voice tapes so at least he could recognize my voice.

He was working during mom's labor and delivery. True enough, he didn't even know what my first spoken words were. I learned my ABCs without him.

Had Ama been here, he could have taught me how to play basketball. He was never present in my school's recognition ceremonies. My mother would only send him pictures of me reaping medals after medals.

Life was difficult for many back then, but not for us. I believed Ama was earning good money overseas. Working away from home, Ama was able to give us a house of our own. Finances were no big deal. Mom was even able to enroll and pursue studies while Ama was abroad. I remember the times when my mother would drop me off in school and she would then attend her classes.

Came 1998 Ama went home for my elementary graduation. I was one happy kiddo. Nothing could compare the feeling of being called on stage and Ama putting medals on my neck.

His stay filled the house with warmth I never felt since. We did lots of travels, and we would drive to the metro to shop in Megamall, my childhood Disneyland.

Months passed but the black bag Ama used to fill his clothes with when he left had not been packed. Mom said, Ama would stay. And I heaved a sigh of childish giddiness.

Splurges we did. I didn't mind since I thought that Ama had kept some for savings.

Savings gone

His earnings eventually gave up. And we bore the consequences. For the longest time, I was in denial that we were going through financial difficulty.

Ama had to look for a job here and ended up working at a government office while my mother had to attend to our stall in the town's public market.

HAPPY AND GAY. Emman at a zoo in Ilocos Sur: "Can see things clearly now."

> 'I didn't have the courage to tell my father to leave again, but I soon found out that it's better we have him at our side'

Truly, his stay in the country changed the lifestyle we used to enjoy. Life took another route, as the saying goes.

From then on, we were enrolled in public schools.

While I didn't have the courage to bluntly tell him to fix his papers to go back abroad, I was completely entertained by the idea. If only he was back there, we could have enrolled in private schools and spent as we please. Instead, we learned how to maintain piggy banks and to "tighten belts."

Completeness

But so far, life has been good to us, even if I no longer enjoyed the perks I had before. From time to time, we had difficulties in finances but would soon find a way out. But the most important thing and the happiest at that is the completeness that I feel with my father at my side.

Though I have felt the luxuries an OFW father could provide us with, nothing beats coming home and finding Ama watching television and welcoming me home. It's like stepping into a comfort zone where I know my family would always be safe. I know, that even if I'm away here in the city, Ama would be there to protect them.

His presence, his guidance and the assurance that I get upon waking up to the sound of his voice more than compensate for the things his working abroad gave us. Yes, there are times we experience financial difficulties, but then again, having Ama at home and having him there to mold me to be the person that I am now is priceless.

GOOD BOY. The author, Emman Cena, shares his academic honors with proud parents Raquel and Franco at the April 2006 graduation rites of the University of the Philippines in Quezon City.

Best buddy

The comfort and the security that I get from him is definitely more than the satisfaction I can get from having the latest iPod or mobile phone.

A father will be your best buddy who will teach you how to fix household appliances and gadgets. He will be your trainer-driver. He will encourage you to smile at the girl you like, though I haven't told him that I like guys more.

He will snicker even at your most juvenile jokes. He will pat you in the back after being elected president of your organization. He will side with you when your mother is nagging you. Best of all, he will be with your mom on stage to receive your most valued college diploma.

I finished my secondary education in a science school and graduated cum laude from the University of the Philippines. I have now a good job here at the INQUIRER while my parents work together in running the family's business.

Doing my part

Given a chance, I would love to try my luck abroad which would mean fighting the dreaded homesickness. Saying goodbye to the country, to my friends, to my favorite food and of course, the occasional soap operas on TV would definitely be a major hurdle but I would be more than ready to do that.

There's nothing wrong with wanting to give the best for your family: Ama already did his part and I'll gladly do the rest.

When that time comes, I'll happily play Santa Claus to him. By then, it will be my turn to do so.

Until now, Ama hasn't told me why he decided to stay home. But for sure that was the best decision he made.

Filipino nurse prepares tests for wannabes in US

By Sylvia Pinca
Contributor

EVERY FILIPINO NURSE WHO dreams of working in the US and has fears of taking the required National Council of Licensure Examinations (NCLEX) should know this—a Filipina who also went through the rigors of reviewing for this test is now an examiner for the NCLEX.

Adel Vidal Blanco, a registered nurse for the past 32 years has made her mark in the American nursing profession. The National Council of State Board of Nursing headquartered in Chicago, Illinois and which is responsible for developing and admitting the NCLEX for the US and some US territories selected Adel as an item test writer for the NCLEX.

Of the many nurses working in the US, Adel was the only Filipino nurse to be included in the big conferences held in November 1994 and August 1995 during which US nursing bigwigs took notice of her. She was nominated on the basis of her educational background and nursing expertise and since then had participated in the NCLEX item test writing many times in the past years.

Adel hails from Negros Occidental. Even as a young girl, Adel adhered to the well-known and oft-quoted classic—"Be the best of whatever you are." Keeping this philosophy close to her heart she pushed herself to achieve academic excellence. Adel's foray into nursing was not her choice. As a young girl she dreamt of becoming a doctor but her parents who were both teachers could not afford to send her to medical school. Adel's second choice was engineering but a lot of people discouraged her from pursuing what they thought was a male course. Her mother suggested that she had better chances of working abroad if she took up nursing. Adel took up the challenge and proved her mother right.

Advice to poor students

Adel knows where of she speaks when she advises poor students not to be discouraged but to work hard to achieve their goals. Even in the US, there are also a lot of poor students under the tutelage of Adel. These are mostly adult learners in nursing schools where education is funded by the federal government. Adel knows too well the difficulties of not having enough finances but she can look back to the years she strived hard to hone her talents and skills and know the sweet rewards of hard work. She believes that everything is humanly possible and that attitude determines one's altitude in life.

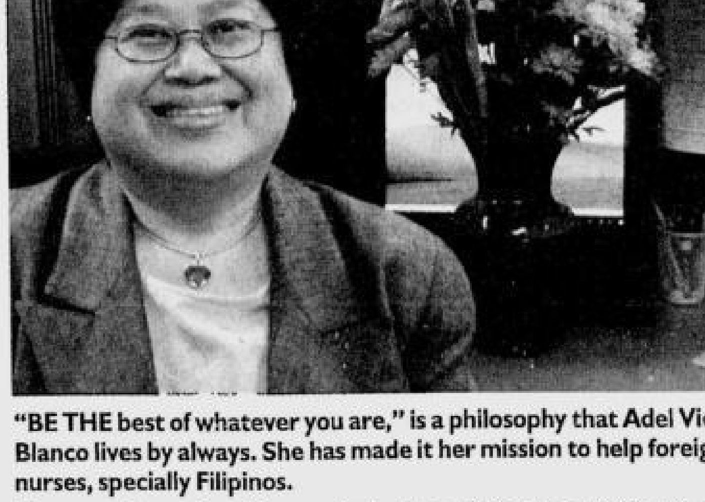
Adel acquired her nursing diploma in 1971 from a Negros Occidental college—the Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial College and after taking her review classes seriously, landed in the top 10 in the Philippine Board Examination for Nurses.

Be the best

It is the same philosophy of being the best of whatever you are that motivated Adel to be a professional nurse. As a young registered nurse she enthusiastically learned everything there is to learn and specialized in virtually all medical aspects—open heart, cardiovascular, respiratory system, neurology, pharmacology, endocrine system, among others.

Adel spent two years in the Philippines as a private nurse before leaving for the US.

After working for some time in the US as a registered nurse, she also went back to school and finished her undergraduate studies in BS Professional Arts in Education (minor in Personal Administration) at St. Joseph College, Maine 1981.



"BE THE best of whatever you are," is a philosophy that Adel Vidal Blanco lives by always. She has made it her mission to help foreign nurses, specially Filipinos.

Ten years later she also acquired her Master of Science in Health Care Administration at the University of La Verne in California.

Survival manual

With all these credentials to her name, Adel held nursing executive jobs—Administrative Nursing Supervisor of Acute Care Hospitals, Patient Care Coordinator in charge of budgeting and personnel, College Director of Nursing Program among others.

Adel who was once a foreign nursing graduate has taken it as her mission to assist foreign nursing graduates, especially Filipinos in preparing for their RN and VN State Board Examination. It is along this line that she designed and developed a curriculum program for an RN and VN review seminar which integrates critical thinking processes in the study/review of nursing concepts and fundamentals as well as empowering her students with test taking strategies.

Her book "NCLEX Review Course Survival Manual" is the standard text she uses for conducting her NCLEX review classes. She intends to make this available in the Philippine market (both in the schools of nursing and book stores) in the immediate future to help young Filipino nurses in their journey towards fulfilling their American dream. On the education side, Adel also published a Pharmacology Instructional Manual for Nursing Instructors.

Chocolate lover

But it is not all work for this nursing expert who is married to an amiable guy by the name of Ben Blanco. In her spare time, Adel designs personal cards which she sends to friends and associates. She also loves making chocolates and fills her house with chocolates to the rafters when she prepares gifts of chocolates to be sent to everyone she holds dear during special events.

This nurse loves people and loves life. She likes organizing parties for friends with whom she shares her joy and life's little things. She smiles a lot and has this infectious laugh that warms the cockles of the heart. The joy and the laughter in her life must also have greatly contributed to her success in a foreign land.

Time capsule car found ruined

TULSA, OKLAHOMA—A CAR BURIED half a century ago in a time capsule had been transformed into a hunk of junk by the time it was unveiled on Friday as part of Oklahoma's Centennial.

The concrete vault, built in 1957 and meant to be opened this year to celebrate Oklahoma's Centennial as a state, has leaked in the intervening 50 years and most of its contents were ruined, to the dismay of those hoping to find a pristine, gold '57 Plymouth Belvedere.

Would-be auto restorers unwrapped 1950s-era protective covering from the mud-caked relic onstage Friday evening at the Tulsa Convention Center, revealing a ruined hulk with rotting upholstery, collapsed suspension, flat tires and an engine that appeared to be a solid chunk of rust.

Officials said they feared the worst when the time capsule was opened earlier this week to reveal four feet of standing water.

The unveiling of the car was to be the centerpiece of a city celebration featuring a classic car show, a "sock-hop" and the showing of a film playing in 1957 at the time the car was buried. "When we saw the water in there we were completely devastated," said event cochair Sharon King Davis.

"We had such hopes." The capsule was buried on the lawn of the Tulsa County Courthouse in 1957 to be opened in 2007.

According to the event chair back then, they chose the Plymouth Belvedere because it exemplified "an advanced product of American industrial ingenuity with the kind of lasting appeal that will still be in style 50 years from now." The two-tone, gold-and-white behemoth sported whitewall tires, a V-8 engine and high tail fins trimmed in chrome.

Items buried with the car included jugs of leaded gasoline, a change of oil and a case of Schlitz beer.

All items were covered with mud and appeared to be ruined. *Reuters*

A 1957 PLYMOUTH Belvedere buried under the courthouse lawn of Tulsa, Oklahoma, 50 years ago is pictured after it was unveiled on June 15. AP

Private US security firms fighting in Iraq—Post

WASHINGTON—US PRIVATE SECURITY companies are getting increasingly involved in military action in Iraq, fighting insurgents, enduring attacks and taking hundreds of casualties that have been sometimes concealed, The Washington Post reported Saturday.

Citing unnamed US and Iraqi officials and company representatives, the newspaper said that while the military has built up troops in Baghdad, the security companies, funded by billions of dollars in US military and State Department contracts, have been engaged in a parallel surge.

They have boosted manpower, added expensive armor and stepped up evasive action as attacks increase, the report said.

One in seven supply convoys protected by private forces has come under attack this year, the paper said, citing previously unreleased statistics.

One security company reported nearly 300 "hostile actions" in the first four months.

The majority of the more than 100 security companies operate outside of Iraqi law, The Post said.

Blackwater USA, a North Carolina firm that protects US Ambassador Ryan Crocker, and several other companies have not applied for Iraqi licenses, according to the report.

Blackwater said that it obtained a one-year license in 2005 but that shifting Iraqi government policy has impeded its attempts to renew, the paper said.

The security industry's enormous growth has been facilitated by the US military, which uses the 20,000 to 30,000 contractors to offset chronic troop shortages, according to The Post.

Armed contractors protect all convoys transporting reconstruction materiel, including vehicles, weapons and ammunition for the Iraqi army and police. They guard key US military installations and provide personal security for at least three commanding generals.

US officials and security company representatives emphasized that contractors are strictly limited to defensive operations, the report said.

But company representatives in the field said insurgents rarely distinguish between the military and private forces, drawing the contractors into a bloody and escalating campaign, the paper reported.

The US military has never released complete statistics on contractor casualties or the number of attacks on privately guarded convoys, The Post said.

According to Victoria Wayne, who served at the Reconstruction Logistics Directorate of the Corps of Engineers in Iraq, the military wanted to hide information showing that private guards were fighting and dying in large numbers because it would be perceived as bad news, the paper said.

In an operational overview updated last month, the logistics directorate reported that 132 security contractors and truck drivers had been killed and 416 wounded since fall 2004. Four security contractors and a truck driver remained missing, and 208 vehicles were destroyed. Only convoys registered with the logistics directorate are counted in the statistics, and the total number of casualties is believed to be higher. *AFP*

Bodies of Iraqi taekwondo team kidnapped last year found

BAGHDAD—THE REMAINS OF 13 MEMBERS of an Iraqi taekwondo team kidnapped last year have been found in western Iraq, police and hospital officials said Saturday.

The team had been driving to a training camp in neighboring Jordan in May 2006, when their convoy was stopped and all 15 athletes abducted along a road between the cities of Fallujah and Ramadi, in Anbar province.

Members of the Anbar Salvation Council, a group of Sunni tribal leaders who have partnered with US and Iraqi officials to fight al-Qaida influence in Anbar, found the 13 bodies Friday west of Ramadi, near the main highway leading to Jordan, said Anbar police Col. Rashid Nayef. Two of the athletes remained unaccounted for.

The remains—mostly skulls and bones entangled in tattered sports uniforms—were transferred to Imam Ali Hospital in Baghdad's predominantly Shiite Sadr City neighborhood, home to most of the athletes. A doctor there, who spoke on condition of anonymity for security reasons, said the bones would undergo DNA testing to determine their identities.

The athletes were members of a private sports club that hopes to one day send members to the Olympics.

"His dream was to represent his country in sports, but instead he was killed," said Ali Kanoun, cousin of one of the victims, Rasoul Salah.

"I tell the killers, you should point your guns at the Americans and the foreigners (fighting in Iraq) instead of hurting athletes who were representing all of Iraq, not their tribe or sect," Kanoun said by telephone from a crowd of mourners at Imam Ali Hospital.

Athletes and sports officials have increasingly become targets of threats, kidnappings and assassination attempts in Iraq, either as part of tit-for-tat violence between Shiites and Sunnis or for ransom. *AP*

RESTORED AFTER 10 YEARS AND £17M

The 18th-century cathedral of Noto, on the southeast coast of Sicily, is to reopen on June 18 after a decade of restoration at a cost of £17 million. The dome collapsed into the nave in 1996 because of failure to repair cracks caused by an earlier earthquake. AFP

Suicide bomber kills 4 in Kabul

KABUL—A SUICIDE CAR-BOMBER attacked a military-civilian convoy on Saturday in the Afghan capital, killing four civilians, police and Nato-led forces said, in the third such attack on international forces in two days.

The suicide attacker drove a car packed with explosives at vehicles carrying both foreign troops and civilians on the western outskirts of Kabul, a senior police official said.

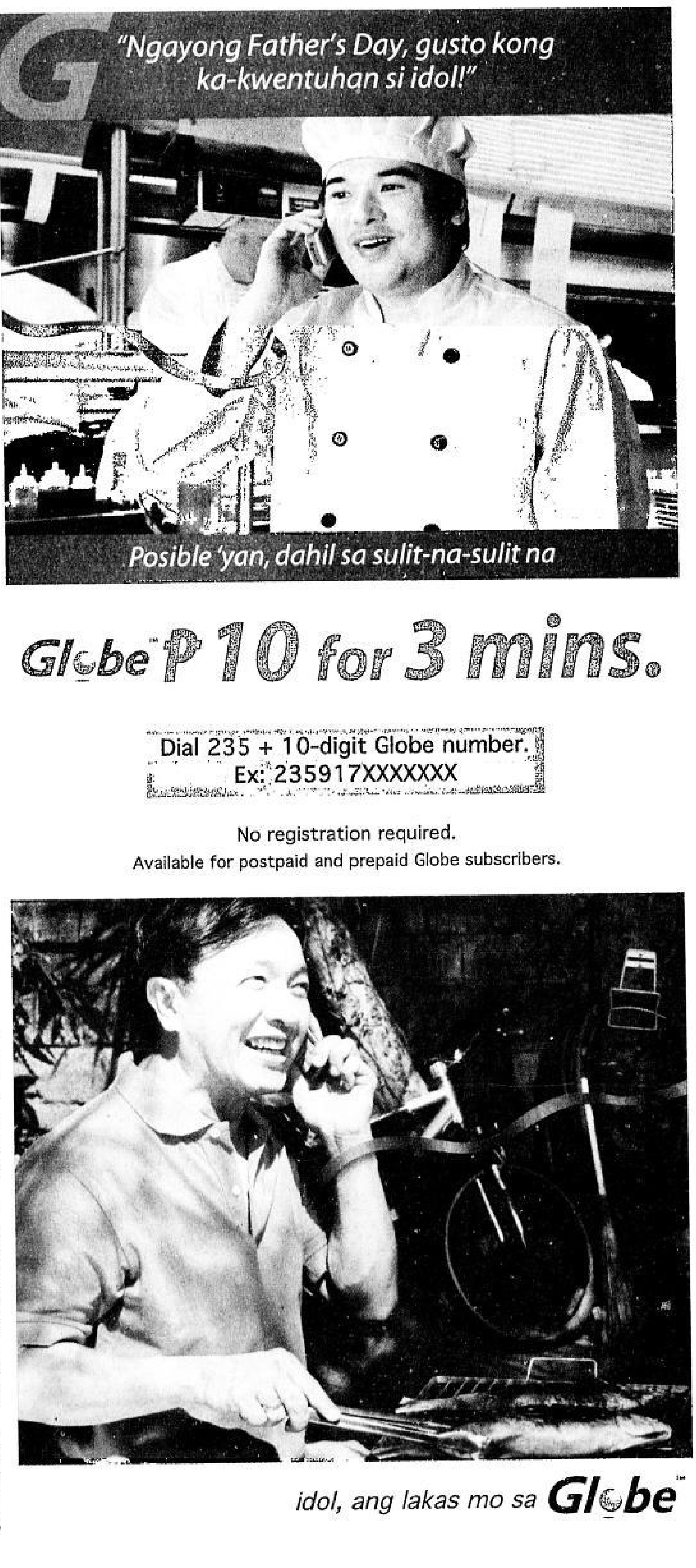
He said five people were wounded, including a foreign soldier.

"Right now we think it may have been a private convoy of private contractors," a spokesperson for the Nato-led International Security Assistance Force (Isaf) said, adding that Isaf troops might have been attached to the convoy to provide security.

One soldier could have been among the killed or wounded, he added, but he could not confirm this yet.

Taliban guerrillas have been waging an insurgency against the Afghan government and its foreign allies since US-led forces evicted the Talibs from power in 2001 for refusing to give up their ally, al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

But suicide bombings are a relatively recent phenomenon in Afghanistan. In the past two years, the Taliban and their al-Qaida allies have stepped up such attacks. *Reuters*



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Globalization of food spurs health issues

By Alexei Barrionuevo

DOWNERS GROVE, ILLINOIS—IN A glassed-off area in the headquarters of Sara Lee, specialists study the latest weather reports and commodity prices. They are sourcing ingredients from all over the world to make Sara Lee's breads, deli meats and microwaveable desserts.

The lowering of trade barriers more than a decade ago has pushed food companies to scour the globe for more exotic—or the cheapest—ingredients to compete in a more global marketplace. But with America's relatively permissible food-import rules and weak inspection regime, is the trend to assemble food from so many far-flung locations heightening the risks of contamination?

"Once ingredients are incorporated into processed foods, it is hard to check whether they come from overseas or to verify if there are any unsafe contaminants in the products," said Michael F. Jacobson, executive director of the Center for Science in the Public Interest, a Washington lobby group.

The concerns of Jacobson and some in Congress are being stoked by the recent scandal involving pet food contaminated with an industrial chemical called melamine and imported from China, which has resulted in thousands of pets being sickened or killed.

David L. Brown, Sara Lee's vice president for procurement, said consumers should not be concerned. "We are going to do our homework," he said, including vetting foreign factories and in some cases investing money to improve food-safety standards. "It is our responsibility to make sure what we are feeding people is safe."

The controls in place to ensure that foreign-sourced ingredients are safe "are evolving as the world changes," Brown said.

Some people say they still have a long way to go. In the weeks since the pet food controversy broke, federal investigators have also discovered toxic toothpaste exported from China and melamine-laced ingredients for fish feed made in Toledo, Ohio. The discoveries have prompted new calls by Congress to overhaul responsibility for America's food-safety system, which is currently shared by the Food and Drug Administration, the Department of Agriculture and a grab bag of other agencies.

Critics say the FDA, which bears the bulk of the food-safety load, is underfinanced and understaffed, and they note that less than one percent of imported food shipments undergo laboratory analysis. The number of food inspectors has decreased in the last five years.

Executives at food companies say that they willingly bear the burden of ensuring the safety of their suppliers' plants and products.

"It's on us," said Brown of Sara Lee. "We can't sit around and wait for government to iron these things out. We have a responsibility to our consumers. We are the ones that have to step up and make the assurances." *NYT*

Palestinians split as Hamas holds Gaza

GAZA CITY—HAMAS FIGHTERS CEMENTED their bloody capture of the Gaza Strip on Friday, creating an Islamist enclave on Israel's doorstep and further dashing prospects for peace and Palestinian statehood.

REMARKABLE LAST HOME
A woman looks at a coffin in the design of a guitar at the Museum for Sepulchral Culture in Kassel, central Germany. The museum showed 16 remarkable last homes produced by the British coffin manufacturer Vic Fearn. AFP

Western-backed president Mahmud Abbas named a new prime minister for his emergency cabinet after his secular Fatah forces were routed by the Islamists in the impoverished territory in the culmination of days of deadly gunbattles.

The dramatic developments have effectively split the Palestinians into two geographically divided and separately ruled entities in Gaza and the occupied West Bank.

As world leaders expressed alarm, the US State Department declared its full support for the Abbas-declared government and hinted of stepped up security aid amid fears of alleged destabilization activities by Iran and Syria.

Hamas, which swept to victory in 2006 polls but is branded a terror outfit by Israel and the West, overran Gaza hours after Abbas sacked the Hamas-led unity government and declared a state of emergency in a bid to avert all-out civil war.

Sporadic gunfire rattled across the impoverished strip, sealed off from the outside world by Israel, as looters took to the streets, masked Hamas gunmen grabbed the spoils of war from fallen Fatah bastions and scores of Abbas loyalists fled to Egypt.

Hamas' action, which has made Palestinian aspirations of an independent state an ever more distant dream, was branded a "military coup" by Abbas and triggered alarm in Israel and among world leaders.

Abbas on Friday tasked independent Salam Fayyad with forming an emergency government after dismissing Hamas premier Ismail Haniya and the unity cabinet, a three-month experiment in power-sharing undermined by raging violence that killed more than 260 people since December alone.

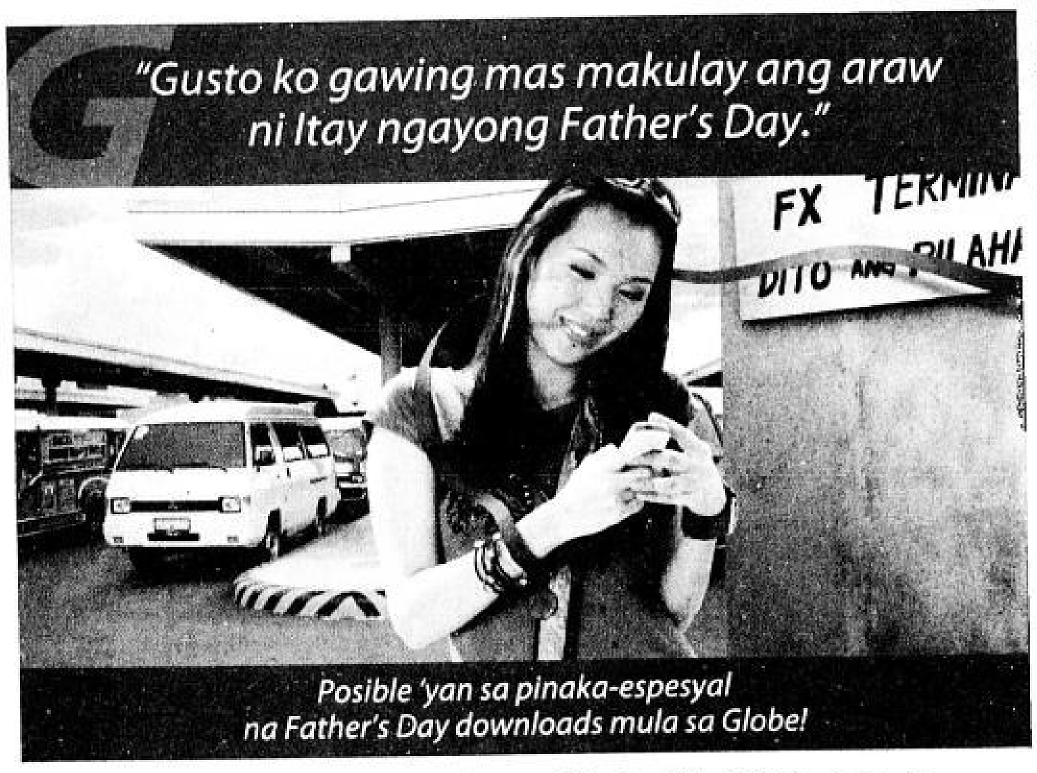
But the move was decried by Hamas as a "coup" and "a transgression of all laws" and Haniya has vowed to carry on in government.

Hamas' election victory in January 2006 over the long-dominant Fatah triggered a crippling Western aid boycott which remains largely in place today, plunging the Palestinians deeper into economic hardship.

Hamas supremo Khaled Meshaal blamed the international community for the current Palestinian crisis, but said Hamas is not seeking to take power in the Palestinian territories.

"We attribute to the international community, which has kept silent about the crimes of Israel, the primary responsibility for our internal crisis, although we acknowledge that we ourselves also have part of the responsibility," he said in an interview to al-Jazeera television.

"We reject the division of the nation. The problem is not with Fatah or with brother Abu Mazen (Abbas)," he said. *AFP*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WHAT'S INSIDE

Cabrera leads hellish Open by one stroke/A25

Sunday SPORTS
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THINGS are expected to be tougher between the Kings and the Beermen. RYAN LIM

FIESTA CUP

Semis cast decided in playoffs today

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:05 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs. Air21
6:35 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs. San Miguel Beer

COACH DERRICK PUMAREN WAS IN THE press room after an impressive Talk 'N Text win on Friday night, trying hard to downplay what he had just accomplished lest his Phone Pals become excessively confident.

"The problem in winning the way we did is that teams may tend to be overconfident," Pumaren said, moments after his Phone Pals ran roughshod over Air21 to send their Talk 'N Text-PBA Fiesta Cup quarterfinal series into a deciding game today.

He may have been talking of his squad and San Miguel Beer, which earlier bamboozled its way past sister team Barangay Ginebra to seal another do-or-die clash in their own quarterfinal duel.

The Phone Pals and the Beermen forged 1-1 ties giving out the same beatings they took in the series openers Wednesday night, and Pumaren said that going into Game 3 at the Araneta Coliseum after a win like that could work both ways.

"We could have the momentum, yes," Pumaren said. "But we must not be careless."

No blowout wins are expected this time when the Phone Pals slug it out with the Express in the 4:05 p.m. contest for the right to collide with defending champion Red Bull in the semifinals, while the Beermen go at it one more time with Barangay Ginebra at 6:35 p.m. game for a seat in the Final Four against Alaska.

The semifinal matches will be a best-of-seven affair as the championship playoffs.

"It's going to be a fight to the end," Ginebra's Siot Tanquingcen said. "For sure, coach Jong (Uichico) will come back stronger in the next game."

Games of both series have been blowouts, with outcomes decided early.

But do-or-die games like tonight's rarely go the same way, especially with everything on the line.

Galen Young, despite taking only four attempts from the field on Friday, showed that he is the backbone of the San Miguel offense, which got six players coming off the bench scoring 11 points or more.

Rod Nealy must assert himself some more against the Beermen if the Gin Kings hope to advance, and the locals, led by Eric Menk and Johnny Abarrientos, must turn in big numbers the way they did in Game 1.

Menk and Abarrientos were held down to just five points each in Game 2. *Musong R. Castillo*

Serbia's Vizura nips sputtering RP-SMC squad

BELGRADE—SERBIAN HOME TEAMS no longer take the visiting San Miguel-Pilipinas squad for granted.

Aware of the Filipinos' 97-79 drubbing of Mega Ishrana of Serbian First Division two days ago, Division B top team KK Usce Vizura came in full force Friday, using its height advantage to subdue SMC-RP, 82-77, at the Sportski Center.

Despite seven holdovers from last season's roster plus five key additions, Vizura, in deep training for its Division A debut next season, only sealed the win after a ral-

SERBIA'S/ A25

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RP's Richelle Besana (right) gets better position against Gan Hwee Fern of Singapore in their goodwill game at the Philsports football field yesterday. The Filipinas won, 3-0. ***Story on page A25.***

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

RP bets fall as Boening gains finals

REIGNING WORLD 10-BALL CHAMPION Shane Van Boening beat Alex Pagulayan, 11-4, in the sixth round of the winner's side yesterday to book his seat in the finals of the World Summit of Pool at the Riviera Hotel and Casino Las Vegas in Nevada.

PAGULAYAN

The 22-year-old Van Boening, who turned professional only last year, also beat Warren Kiamco, 11-6, another Filipino entry in the fifth round of the winner's side in the afternoon session.

In the same round, Pagulayan, the 2004 World 9-ball titlist, downed fellow Filipino Francisco "Django" Bustamante, 11-9.

Following his loss to Boening, Pagulayan will now have to face the winner of the do-or-die showdown between Kiamco and Bustamante with the victor forging a title clash with Van Boening.

Earlier, Bustamante routed American Austin Murphy 11-1, while Kiamco bested another American Stevie Moore, 11-5.

Other Filipino campaigners who dropped out of contention with two losses each were Jose "Amang" Parica, Marlon Manalo Dennis Orcollo, Al Lapena, Edwin Montal and Danny Petralba . *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Guinness tour: Gomez exits

FILIPINO ROBERTO GOMEZ YIELDED A 9-8 decision to Indonesian Ricky Yang yesterday and bowed out of the 2007 Guinness 9-ball tour at the Genting Highlands International Convention Center in Malaysia.

With the win, Yang takes on Indian Dharminder Singh, who disposed of another Indon Jimmy Jusman via a similar 9-8 victory.

The 28-year-old Gomez had a chance to secure a ticket in the final four after taking an 8-6 lead but got stuck in the final canto.

Gomez's exit left Lee Vann Corteza to carry the fight for the Philippines. Corteza is battling Taiwanese Chao Fong-pang at presstime. Bernard Tey Choon Kiat of Singapore and Taiwanese Chang Jung Lin are disputing the other semifinal slot.

Two Filipinos---double world champion Ronato Alcano and 2006 Doha Asian games 9-ball silver medallist Jeffrey de Luna failed to advance to the knockout stage.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

Alcano, 3 others enter poker pool showdown

ALCANO

RONATO ALCANO, the reigning WPA 9-ball and WPA 8-ball world champion, and three other Filipino cue masters will be seeing action in the country's first-ever Poker Pool Showdown on July 14 at the Bugsy's Lair Billiards hall at Sgt. Esguerra, in Timog, Quezon City.

Also invited to play are Jeffrey de Luna, the 2006 Doha Asian Games 9-ball silver medalist, Joven Bustamante, the 2007 Fujairah World 8-ball semifinalist and 17-year-old Renemar David, the 2006 Sydney World Junior quarterfinalist.

"It's a big privilege to be invited in this first-ever country's TV Poker Pool Showdown," said Alcano, a mainstay of Bugsy promotions, in Filipino.

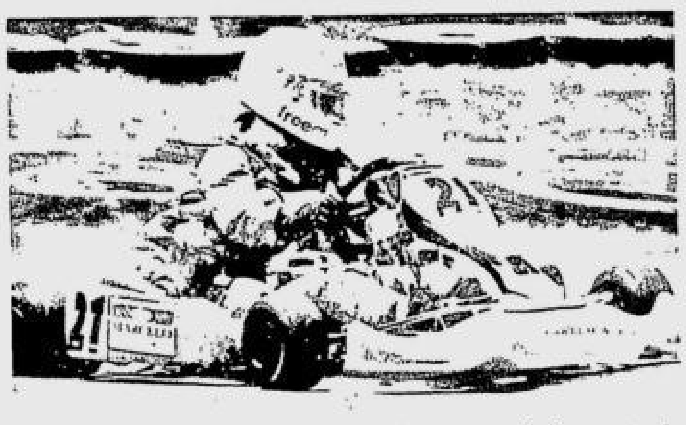
Dubbed as "Sargo," the event will be aired on RPN 9 every Saturday from 7 to 9 p.m. Gandy Valle, the 1998 Asian Games gold medalist and Bob Guerrero will serve as commentators/analysts of the novel tournament.

According to RPN 9 brand manager Frederick M. Centeno, each player will get 5 playing cards under the format. Scratch will be considered automatic elimination in that particular game while foul ball will be played behind the rail by the next player.

Nos. 14 and 15 are considered joker balls and can only be played after the player pockets one of his card.

Order of player in the event to be organized and produced by RPN 9 in close cooperation with Solar Entertainment Corp. will be determined by a lag.

Cards will be handed to the players after the break. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*



JEAN Stefano Marcelo beats the Cebuanos on their own turf by sweeping the Cebu ROK 125 Open Series kickoff.

Marcelo posts 3 wins

CEBU CITY—JEAN STEFANO Marcelo survived the grueling heat and the challenge of the highly technical track as he swept the three kickoff races of the Cebu ROK 125 Open Series recently at the KartZone here.

It was a totally different challenge for the 14-year-old Marcelo, who just arrived from a heart-breaking stint in Belgium.

At the start, Marcelo, who also leads the Shell Helix SuperKarting Series, was actually a second off the fastest times of the Cebuanos. Taking last minute practice sessions and adjustments on the kart did wonders for Stefano in posting the fastest laptime in the qualifying round to claim the pole position against Cebuano aces Blake Go and Jess Garcia.

In Heat One, Stefano and the Cebuanos scrambled for the lead at the first turn. Coming out of turn two, Stefano squeezed his way in front ahead of Go and former jetski champ Jan Jan Gonzalez.

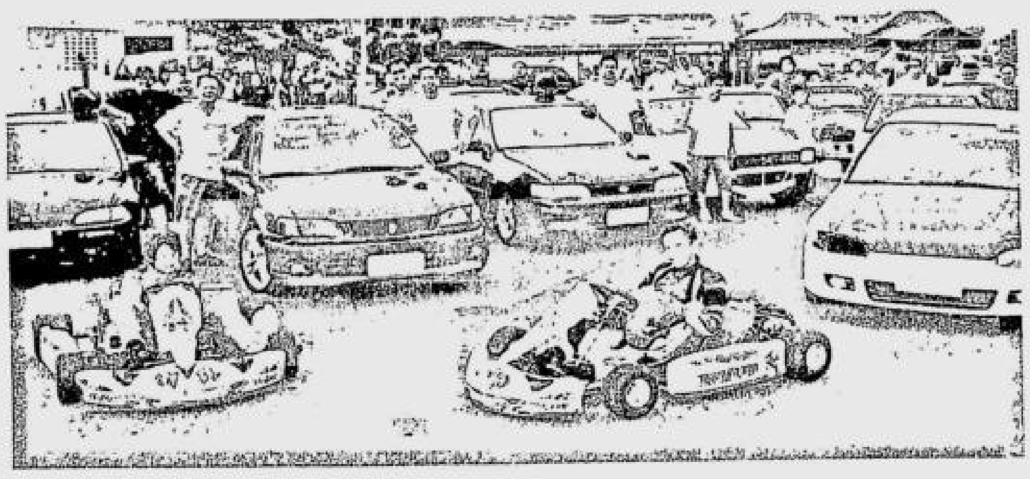
Cebuanos eye sweep vs Manila

CEBU GUNS FOR A SWEEP of the eliminations against Manila today even as Negros shoots for a berth in the semifinal round against winless Laguna in Baseball Philippines' pilot series at the Rizal Memorial Baseball Stadium.

The Dolphins, behind ace hurler Joseph Orillana, have racked up three straight wins, including a 9-5 victory over the Laguna Tigers last week, to clinch the first semis slot in the inaugural tournament.

Though assured of a spot in the next phase, the Dolphins, who opened their bid with an 8-0 rout of the Makati Mariners before disposing of the Negros Roosters, 9-4, vow to go flat out against the Sharks in their 1 p.m. encounter.

Negros, toting a 1-1 card, goes for the second semis berth when it clashes with an embattled Laguna side earlier at 9 a.m.



PARTICIPANTS of the 2007 Autocross Series brace for battle.

Santos, Joson triumph

ALVIN SANTOS AND DEAN JOSON submitted the fastest times in their respective classes to emerge as overall winners in the 2nd round of the 2007 Autocross Series at the Aseana Business Park in Parañaque City.

Santos, who topped the Experienced Modified B and Open C, had the day's best clocking of 41.08 seconds to edge Peewee Mendiola's 41.31 seconds.

Noel Rivera, a two-division winner like Santos, finished third in the premier class with 41.42 seconds. Rivera ruled the Experienced Modified C and Open B divisions.

Joson also grabbed two division trophies en route to winning the overall title in the novice class.

Two other novices, Jan Dela Merced and DJ De Guzman claimed second and third spots with 44.75 and 44.97 efforts.

The other division winners were Paolo Abad Santos (Novice Stocks A, B and C), Dan Uy (Novice Modified A), Daryl Flores (Experienced Stock A), Caloy Cruz (Experienced Stock B and Grupo Toyota), Patrick Carandang (Experienced Stock C), Niño Sarte (Experienced Modified A and Open A), De Guzman (Toyota Club), Randee Jimenez (Mitsubishi Club), Arman Hipolito (Volkswagen Club), Mendiola (Federal Tire Class) and Gerald Colina (Old School).

V-League going strong

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

AN OLD FRIEND I CALLED AS SUCH not because it is a reflection of his age but of the long years we have known each other, broadcaster and journalist Ronnie N, dropped by to visit us at St. Luke's hospital the other day after keeping tabs of how we were doing through daily phone calls. Not only was it thoughtful of him to visit, he gave me a chance to talk to him about the V-League since he, together with daughter Rachael and her cousins, have been regulars at the games.

According to Ronnie, "The Arena," a prized showcase of San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito has suddenly come to life thanks to the Shakey's V-League Volleyball games that are played there every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday.

He says pretty girls soaring for spikes or blocks are always an attraction but adds that the V-League is more than that simply because the games are exciting. The largely young crowd from different schools keep the venue rocking with their cheers and with the quality of volleyball brought about by the introduction of Thai "imports" and the participation of members of the national team, everything has been good.

Just a suggestion though. Could they play some up-tempo music during breaks and before the games to keep the crowd alive instead of the Shakey's jingle all the time?

The ringside and lower level sections have been filled in the last few weeks and those who leave their seats for a call of nature often return to find them taken, unless someone offers to reserve the seats.

The people behind Sports Vision, which was the brainchild of the late, extremely popular PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino, including his son Nolan and old basketball comrades Moying Martelino and Ricky Palou, are all smiles because while they may not be making money, Shakey's has committed its wholehearted support for the next five years. Good news for the sport, the girls and the girl-watchers too!

One of the big pluses of course is the air-conditioned, clean and well-maintained venue, The Arena, which is ideal for volleyball. Mayor JV and the folks of San Juan, take a bow.

* * *

Talking of girls, the Philippine women's football team was set to play a visiting team from Singapore at 4 p.m. Saturday in the first of two goodwill games. It's a great chance for our young team to get some much needed practice in preparation for the Southeast Asian Games in Bangkok later this year. The second game is on Monday at 6 p.m. also at the Ultra field.

Trouble is, some of the girls say the field is uneven in places which any footballer will tell you doesn't make for attractive football. Its sad because soccer is one sport where Filipinos have all the attributes—speed, a good eye, rhythm and guts—to excel.

Unlike basketball, height is not might in football. Maybe its time for those wonderful benefactors of basketball to provide some support for sports like football and volleyball.

A little help for other sports certainly won't hurt.

* * *

PBA Chairman Ricky Vargas must be in a good mood right now. After his Game 1 outburst at the dugout, the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals have evened up their best-of-three quarterfinal series against Air 21. Surprisingly, the Cuneta Astrodome was half-filled on Friday.

* * *

We are checking out from St. Luke's and going home today, thanks to a loving, caring God. We'd also like to thank all our friends who remembered to call, sent flowers and helped cheer us up in so many different ways. God bless you all.

DAR
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
CAMARINES NORTE PROVINCIAL OFFICE

NOTICE OF COVERAGE

Pursuant to Section 7 of Republic Act No. 6657, the following landowners are hereby notified that their property/properties hereunder listed to wi

	Landowner	Mode of Acquisition	Area	Title No. /TD No.	Location
1	CLERNING M. TALAGA	CA	10.6537	T-166487	Plaridel, Sta. Elena, C. Norte
2	ANGEL PENTINO	CA	9.7232	T-17237	Cabuluan, Sta. Elena, Cams. Norte
3	FRANCISCO TEJADA, JR.	CA	6.6907	T-17528 (p)	Rizal, Sta. Elena, Cams. Norte
4	AGUSTIN LACSON	CA	5.3609	P-11947	Bayan-bayan, Labo, Cams. Norte
5	PEDRO LIGAYO	CA	16.3630	T-4218	Benit, Labo, Cams. Norte
6	ROY PADILLA	CA	5.9483	T-14078	Sta, Cruz, Jose Panganiban, C. Norte
7	EDMUNDO CEA	CA	17.6124	P-4124	Sta, Cruz, Jose Panganiban, C. Norte
8	ALFREDO ALANO	CA	21.5437	T-17941	Lukbukan, Jose Panganiban, C. Norte
9	CONRADO VILLALUNA'	CA	18.7355	P-2358	San Pedro, Jose Panganiban, C. Norte
10	GEORGE ADEA	CA	10.4661	T-12391	San Rafael, Jose Panganiban, C. Norte
11	ROSELLA BLANAS	CA	8.0278	T-14761	Sta Rosa, Jose Panganiban, C. Norte
12	FRANCISCA DASCO	CA	9.1833	P-2639	San Rafael, Jose Panganiban, C. Norte
13	BALDOMERO HIRANG	CA	12.524	P-4003	San Isidro, Jose Panganiban, C. Norte
14	SEGUNDO MANIGOTE	CA	11.3353	P-2860	San Jose, Jose Panganiban, C. Norte
15	CAROLINA RAÑADA	CA	8.8162	P-14059	Sta. Rosa, Jose Panganiban, C. Norte
16	SILVESTRE RAYNERA	CA	10.3686	P-3222	Tamisan, Jose Panganiban, C. Norte
17	RAROREALTYDEVELOPMENTCORP.	CA	17.0266	T-4745	Dogongan, Daet, Cams. Norte
18	MICHAEL O. OLIVAN	CA	4.8745	T-17043	Mal-Basud, Labo, Cams. Norte
19	ANGEL PENTIÑO	CA	5.7014	P-7133	Cabuluan, Sta. Elena, Cams. Norte
20	LEE SIO CHU GAO	CA	11.5395	T-18095	Villa San Isidro, Sta. Elena, Cams. Norte
		Total	222.5037		

are now covered under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. Under DAR Administrative Order No. 1, Series of 2003, the right to choose the area to be retained must be exercised within Thirty (30) days from the date of Publication of the Notice of Coverage. Failure to exercise this right of retention, protest and application for exemption within the prescribed period shall be considered as a waiver of the right/privilege to: apply for exemption/exclusion or retention, nominate children as beneficiaries or submit evidence for determining just compensation.

Under Executive Order No. 405, we shall request the Land Bank of the Philippines to determine the reasonable Land Value of the said property being acquired pursuant to Section 17, of Republic Act No. 6657.

(Sgd.) Atty. MIGUEL S. GRACILLA
OIC-PARO II

(PDI – June 17, 2007)

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RP lady booters shut out Singapore

GAME TOMORROW (PhilSports)
6 p.m.—RP vs Singapore

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE SUBSTITUTES PROVED TO BE THE stars, leading the Philippine ladies football team to a 3-0 victory over Singapore in the first of two goodwill matches last night at the Philsports football field.

Elisa Benitez and Edna Agravante, swinging into action only late in the first half, provided instant impact by scoring the Philippines' first two goals.

Benitez, a 21-year-old midfielder, scored inside the penalty box on the 46th minute just moments after replacing Marnelli Salvador Dizon, who injured her left knee.

Agravante, filling in for Sharon Welchel, also came through with a six-yard goal after a scramble on the 61st minute.

Midfielder Rachelle delos Reyes completed the young nationals' domination with a long-range shot on the 85th minute from 27 yards.

The win was all the more impressive since the Filipinos played without head coach Marlon Maro, who had a previous official engagement.

"We played good, but there are still a lot of things to improve on," said team manager Ernest Nierras.

Singapore's national mentor Nathaniel Naplah complained about the officiating and the poor condition of the lights on the field, but still commended the RP side's performance.

"The Philippines played a good game, but I wont say they're better than Singapore," said Naplah. "They composed themselves from the beginning of the game."

It's the third time in four games the Philippines won over Singapore in goodwill matches in recent years.

Cabrera leads hellish Open by one stroke

Casey scores best round; Mickelson cut

OAKMONT, PENNSYLVANIA—ANGEL CABRera was the last survivor to par on Friday but only because of an amazing birdie on his final hole that made Phil Mickelson extinct at this US Open.

Cabrera finished off a calamitous day at Oakmont with a sand wedge from 135 yards that skipped to a stop about a foot from the hole, giving him a 1-over 71 and a one-shot lead over Bubba Watson. That put him at even-par 140 and knocked 19 players out of the tournament because they were no longer within 10 shots of the lead.

No casualty was more significant than Mickelson.

Trying to recover from a broken heart last year at Winged Foot and a left wrist injury he blamed on Oakmont's rough, Mickelson had a 77 and missed the cut for the first time in 31 majors dating to the 1999 British Open at Carnoustie.

Mickleson returned to San Diego on Friday night to have the wrist examined. After his round he said he was heading back to his room to "watch the carnage on TV."

That it was.

Greens that had been cut three times and rolled twice, combined with warm sunshine that cooked the course, led to only two rounds under par and the highest weekday scoring at a US Open in 21 years.

"I don't know what the average score was, but I think I shot under par," Tiger Woods said after salvaging a 74 that put him five back.

Even more shocking than the toughness of Oakmont was seeing Paul Casey with a 66. That was 11 shots better than the average score.

"I consider the US Open to be the toughest test in golf," Casey said. "This is possibly the toughest golf course I've ever played, and I feel very, very lucky to have shot 66 on it."

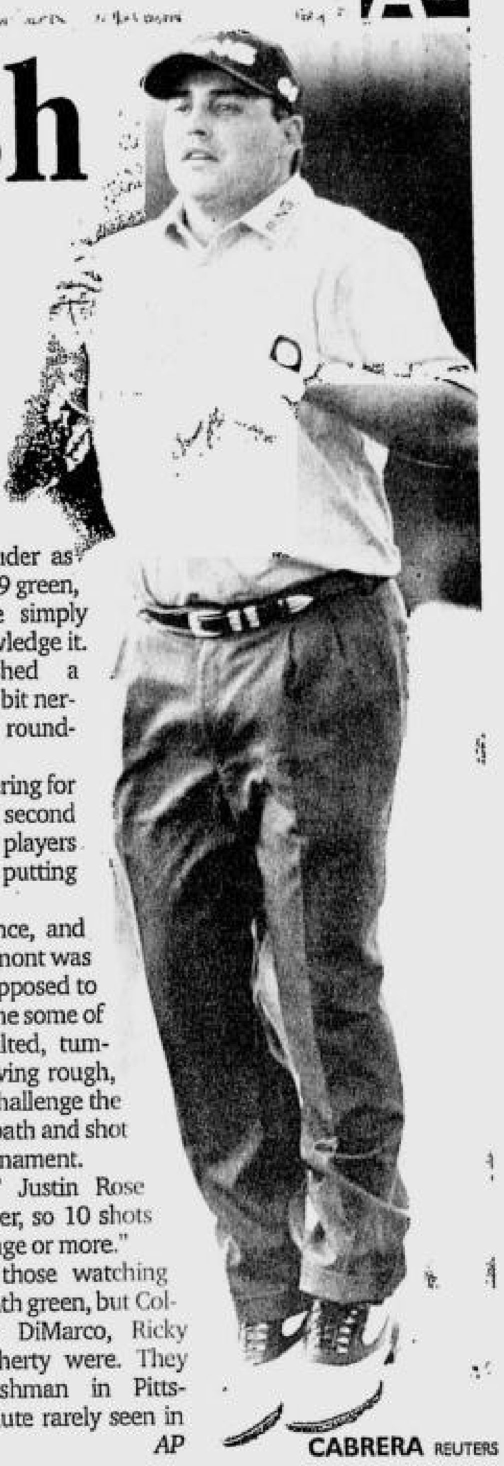
The applause grew louder as Casey approached the No. 9 green, and became so loud he simply could not refuse to acknowledge it. Several spectators flashed a thumbs up, making him a bit nervous before he sank his round-ending par putt.

These weren't fans cheering for Casey's remarkable second round, but his fellow players gathered on the adjacent putting green.

They recognize brilliance, and this was it. On a day Oakmont was every bit the beast it is supposed to be, ruining the games of the some of sport's greats with its tilted, tumbling greens and unforgiving rough, Casey stood up to every challenge the historic course put in his path and shot himself back into the tournament.

"That's unbelievable," Justin Rose said. "He finished 4 under, so 10 shots better than the field average or more."

Rose wasn't among those watching Casey finish up on the ninth green, but Colin Montgomerie, Chris DiMarco, Ricky Barnes and Nick Dougherty were. They gave Casey—an Englishman in Pittsburgh—an on-course salute rarely seen in championship golf. *AP*


CABRERA REUTERS

Dottie, Mia bow out in semis

DOTTIE ARDINA AND MIA PICCIO DROPPED OUT OF THE WOMEN'S WESTERN 107TH National Amateur Championship Friday after losing to Mallor Blackwelder and Stefanie Page, respectively, in the semifinal round at the Stone Creek Golf Club in Urbana, Illinois. Ardina and Piccio, who sparked hopes of an all-Filipino finale with a pair of victories in the quarterfinal round, bowed to Blackwelder on a final hole bogey, 1-up, and Page, 2 and 1, respectively, putting an end to the Filipino bets' impressive campaign in the oldest amateur tournament in the US. Over in Arizona, Jay Bayron failed to get his rhythm going and fumbled with a closing 74, settling for joint fifth in the 92nd Southwestern Amateur Golf Championship topped by Aaron Weston via a playoff victory over Zen Brown at the Desert Mountain Golf Club in Scottsdale Thursday.

Salvador eyes 3rd straight PGAP crown

LIPA CITY—RED-HOT ELMER SALvador, after victories at Royal Northwoods and Splendido, tries to make it three-in-a-row starting Tuesday in the second Pantechs Invitational presented by PGAP president Jun Bustamante at the Mount Malarayat here.

Salvador is tagged as the prohibitive pick in the 72-hole event being backed by Hyun Hoo-yang, JP Korea president; Malarayat chair Antonio Turalba and Jack Imperial after brandishing mean form in the last two PGAP events.

The 32-year-old long-hitter from Davao won at Splendido in wire-to-wire style in November before rallying to nip Antonio Lascuña at Northwoods last April.

The winner bags P300,000 out of the total of $35,000 (roughly P1.62 million) put up by the PGAP and Bustamante, with the field out to foil a Salvador hat-trick at the venue of the 2005 Philippine Open won by Aussie Adam Le Vesconte.

Juvic Pagunsan, the Asian Tour's top rookie last year, is a likely starter. The 28-year-old from Bacolod has been practicing at the Malarayat's Mounts Makulot and Lobo nines the past days.

Others in the field are former Philippine Open champions Robert Pactolerin and Cassius Casas and veterans Mars Pucay, Lascuna, Danny Zarate, among others.

Give it all for flag says Loyzaga

LOYZAGA: The Big Difference RYAN LIM

By Jasmine W. Payo

HE HAD CROSSED MANY INTERNATIONal hardcourts in sprightly steps.

Now a robust 77-year-old, Carlos "Caloy" Loyzaga again made his way toward the center court and basked in the spotlight.

But the legendary Loyzaga came with no ball in hand. He only held a microphone.

Loyzaga, arguably the greatest ever Filipino basketball player, came for a quick stop to offer advice to the amateur national pool set to compete in the Southeast Asian Games.

"Embrace the opportunity to play for the country," the two-time Olympian said during the recent PBL Achievement Awards.

"Nothing should be held back. If you have to break a leg, break a leg."

The words were still spoken with much passion by the man nicknamed as "The Big Difference" because of his impact in the game.

And his appearance, albeit brief, brought back memories of the Philippines' most storied and decorated national squad over half a century ago.

As a 6-foot-3 center, Loyzaga carried the Philippines on his shoulders to capture the bronze medal in the 1954 Fiba World Championship. And he rightfully earned a spot in the Mythical Team for spearheading the best tournament finish of an Asian country.

Loyzaga, a polished shooter, dribbler and rebounder, also collected four straight gold medals in the Asian Games and two consecutive golds in the Fiba Asia Championship when he donned the national colors from 1951 to 1962.

Now that he has been living in Australia, Loyzaga still remains active in sports. But this time, his game is on the greens.

"I play golf," he said. "I spend time with my family. I have more time and more opportunity to do other things that I like."

Although Philippine basketball remains in his heart, Loyzaga politely refused to discuss the PBA-backed national roster setting to relive the country's Olympic glory.

"I cannot comment, I've been away and haven't seen the national team play," he said, adding that serving as an inspiration to the young national hopefuls would be enough.

A true gentleman of the court, indeed.

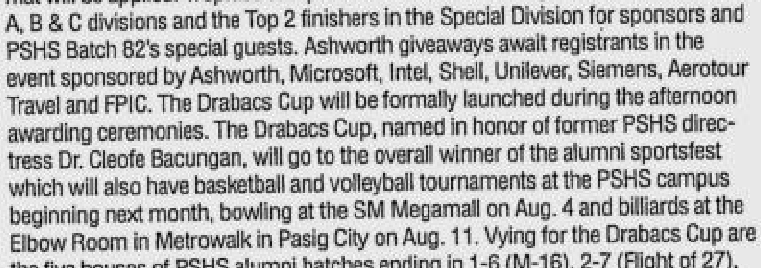
SPORTSWATCH

Black Mamba banners P1.2-M Juvenile race

CLASSY NEWCOMER BLACK MAMBA HOPES TO MAKE AMENDS FOR HIS series one debacle last month as he leads eight other promising 2-year-olds vying for the top spot in the 2007 Philracom 2YO Stakes Series II at the Santa Ana Park today. Finishing second to last as top favorite in the series opener won by Tabako, Black Mamba got back some measure of respect two weeks ago at the Santa Ana Park as he repulsed the challenge of two other game juveniles in a four-way dash to the finish over 900 meters, eventually winning by a nose. The colt by Principality out of Spicy Tale and purchased as a yearling by owners Nonoy and Pierre Niles from breeder Hermie Esguerra, will again be skippered by champion jockey Jonathan Hernandez as he tries to finally land the big money in just four starts. Winner of the P1.2-million Philracom-sponsored stakes race is guaranteed to receive P720,000 with P70,000 in bonus prize to the winning breeder. Second to fourth placers will receive P270,000, P150,000 and P60,000, respectively.

PSHS holds golf tilt, launches Drabacs Cup

THE PSHS-DILIMAN ALUMNI WILL HOLD THE 2007 PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH School Drabacs Cup Alumni Golf Tournament slated Tuesday, June 19, at the Ayala Alabang Golf and Country Club. Registration fee is P2,500 and starts at 6 a.m. Tee-off time for the event, organized by PSHS Batch 82 led by its president Adee Sipin and sports committee chair Fidel Mangonon III, is 7 a.m. The System 36 format will be applied. Trophies and prizes in kind await the Top 3 finishes in the Class A, B & C divisions and the Top 2 finishers in the Special Division for sponsors and PSHS Batch 82's special guests. Ashworth giveaways await registrants in the event sponsored by Ashworth, Microsoft, Intel, Shell, Unilever, Siemens, Aerotour Travel and FPIC. The Drabacs Cup will be formally launched during the afternoon awarding ceremonies. The Drabacs Cup, named in honor of former PSHS directress Dr. Cleofe Bacungan, will go to the overall winner of the alumni sportsfest which will also have basketball and volleyball tournaments at the PSHS campus beginning next month, bowling at the SM Megamall on Aug. 4 and billiards at the Elbow Room in Metrowalk in Pasig City on Aug. 11. Vying for the Drabacs Cup are the five houses of PSHS alumni batches ending in 1-6 (M-16), 2-7 (Flight of 27), 3-8 (38 Special), 4-9 (49ers) and 5-0 (Hawaii 5-0). Interested PSHS alumni are requested to visit www.pisay82.org and www.pshsaa.org for more details.



MABL CHAMPS: Members of the Mighty Filter Kings celebrate after winning the first Manila Amateur Basketball League (MABL) recently at the Buddahcare gym in Quezon City. From left: team manager Joseph Whang, playing-coach Harlan Yu, Dom Uy, Cons Ong, Grech Go, Wowie Evangelista, Marv Sioco, Edrick Ferrer (MVP), Terence Tang, Big Jo Chua, Fritz Dy, Clark Torrente, Geo Sia, Sam Gulayan.

Serbia's Vizura nips RP-SMC . . .

From page A23

ly by the Filipinos fell short in the end.

Vizura led, 80-77, in the closing second and the RP-SMC five had a chance to knot the ballgame but Danny Seigle's three-pointer missed its mark, allowing the taller Serbians to seal the victory.

"My disappointment stems from the fact that we had a chance to win the game but we got blanked in the last three minutes," said national head coach Chot Reyes.

And it wasn't just a straight-out-of-left-field chance.

The Nationals last led at 77-75 on baskets by Talk 'N Text center Asi Taulava and Gerorge Mason U standout Gabe Norwood but lost steam in the end after needing to overhaul a 66-52 deficit early in the second half.

"We gave ourselves the opportunity but we couldn't cash it in," said Reyes.

Dondon Hontiveros, Mick Pennisi, Jimmy Alapag, Kerby Raymundo and Danny Seigle engineered a 15-5 attack that helped the Nationals close in on the Serbian squad that had earlier erected a 14-point edge.

With Vizura up, 71-67, Hontiveros and Seigle took charge, pushing the Philippine squad aiming for an Olympic berth up, 72-71.

"We played hard tonight except for that lapse toward the end of the second quarter," said Reyes, who rued the fact that the Nationals got their looks by executing well, but just couldn't bury the baskets when they needed to.

Right at the onset, it was clear that the Serbians weren't going to take the Filipinos lightly. Days after beating the Iran national squad, Vizura came up with its best starting unit against the RP-SMC squad, going to a five made up of a 6-4 point guard, a 6-11 center and a trio of 6-8 wingmen in Nenad Buric, Milos Djalovic and Nikola Pistolevic.

It's uphill from now on for the Nationals as they take on powerhouse Novi Sad next followed by Montenegro, the Serbian 21-and-under squad, and the Swiss Lions.

The scores:

KK USCE VIZURA 82—Buric N. 19, Buric D. 13, Kecman 9, Karic 7, Dalovic 7, Tomovic 5, Radic 5, Obrenovic 4, Teodesic 4, Spalevic 4, Pistolevic 3, Mazibrada 2.

SMC-TEAM PILIPINAS 77—Seigle 15, Raymundo 12, Caguioa 11, Taulava 10, Norwood 6, Pennisi 6, Helterbrand 6, De Ocampo 5, Hontiveros 4, Alapag 2, Ritualo 0, Dela Cruz 0.

Quarters: 25-23, 54-44, 71-67, 82-77

Lyceum, SSC seek repeat V-League wins

JOINT LEADERS LYCEUM AND SAN SEBAStian try to put some space between them and their pursuers as they seek repeat victories over La Salle and Ateneo, respectively, at the start of the semifinal round of the Shakey's V-League at The Arena in San Juan today.

Sporting identical 6-1 slates, Lyceum and SSC are two games ahead of idle University of Santo Tomas and three over La Salle and Ateneo.

Lyceum, enjoying top form with Sherrilyn Carrillo, Josielyn Degorostiza and Beverly Boto at the helm, trounced La Salle in four, 25-17, 9-25, 25-23, 25-20, last June 10, while San Sebastian, behind the power-hitting Jaroensri Bualee, also fashioned out a four-set win over Ateneo, 25-23, 25-16, 25-18, 33-31, last June 12.

Those wins should make them the slight favorites in today's start of the semis of the event sponsored by Shakey's Pizza, a single round robin, carry-over phase with the top two teams advancing to the championship round.

But expect La Salle and Ateneo to come out strong and try to foil the leaders' bid to pull away with the Lady Archers strengthening their frontline rotation by recalling a member of their three-peat champion team.

La Salle, whose drive for a fourth straight championship has been challenged by Lyceum and SSC, is tapping former UAAP MVP Desiree Hernandez for its 2 p.m. clash with Lyceum.

Ateneo, meanwhile, will pin its hopes on Michelle Laborte, the third top scorer after the eliminations with 156 points.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—Empire Trish (1), Star Colony (3), Princess Dancer (3)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Collective Dreams (8), Yo Tero (5), El Cid (3), Carlito's Way
Race 3—(Tri)—Battle Plan (4), Strong Boy (2), Malihim (3)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)— Business Class (1), Miguelito (7), Zaniga (6), Royal Scepter (3)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Victorian Stories (5), Allez Allez (7), Prying Eyes (6), Honor Rose (4)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Silver Cho Cho (8), Blue Iris (3), Fair Urduja (7), Morning Nell (2), Kapit Bahay (1)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—He's The Man/Indelible Ink (5), Black Mamba (1), Security Queen (3); El Banquero (4)
Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—King Anthony (7), Ger Francis (3), Sambat (4), Condoleeza (5)
Race 9—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Ingay Ingay (8), Five O' Clock (4), Fabiola (10), Scud Missile (12), Goldsphere (1)
Race 10—(Tri)—Dom Perl Pink (1), Beyond Glory (4), Lady Inday (5)
Race 11—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Manila's Style (8), Hand-Picked (3), At All Cost (2), Jade Express (5), Golden Rhythm (9)
Race 12—(Qrt/Tri)—Iloranni (5), Hok Kee Hok (1), Gondor (2), Paminsanminsan (6)
Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Manila's Smile (1), Crystal City (5), Apple Splash (11), June Siete (6), Time Deposit (4), Friendly Venture (12)

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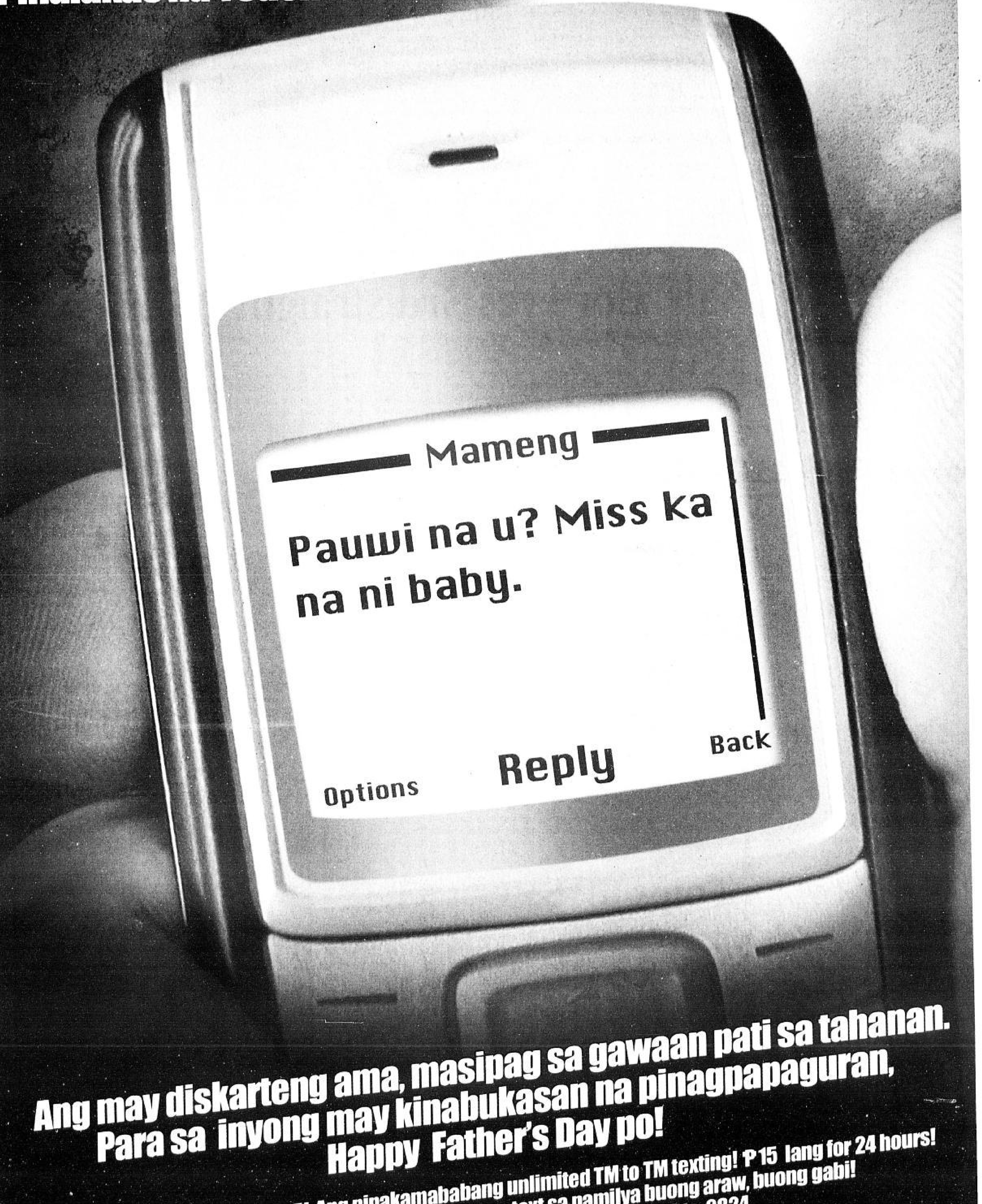
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Father knows best

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

CEBU CITY—FATHERS KNOW best and Cebu Holdings Inc. president Francis O. Monera knows this only too well.

Monera recalls how when he was in fourth year high school, he and two of his friends thought they could easily get a cushy temporary job at the pier because Monera's late father, Victoriano, was president of the labor union.

He and his friends also had top grades and it should be a breeze for them to take on the job of a timekeeper, cash collector or checker.

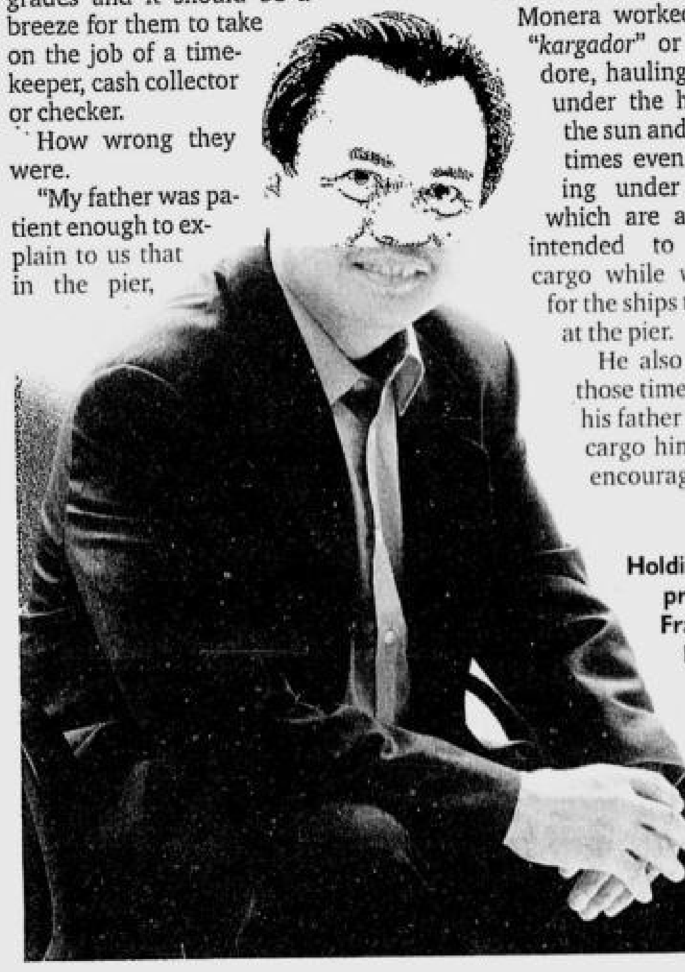
How wrong they were.

"My father was patient enough to explain to us that in the pier, such positions were considered officer level. When he was convinced that we were serious in landing a job, he asked us to start from the bottom or as plain laborers in the pier," Monera tells SundayBiz.

"His rationale was simple—we need to know the sentiment of the people by going through their experience before we are allowed to occupy higher positions," the 52-year-old adds.

And so for almost a year, Monera worked as a "*kargador*" or stevedore, hauling cargo under the heat of the sun and sometimes even sleeping under tents, which are actually intended to cover cargo while waiting for the ships to dock at the pier.

He also recalls those times when his father carried cargo himself to encourage the other laborers to start working during the unholy hours when the ships arrive.



CEBU Holdings Inc. president Francis O. Monera

FIRST JOB

"So at an early age, my father taught me what I would appreciate later in life as the essence of integrity, the value of hard work, the importance of empathy and leadership by example," Monera says.

Thanks to his father's example, the certified public accountant quickly climbed up the corporate ladder of Ayala Land Inc., the country's largest real estate company, and today heads the company's operations in Visayas and Mindanao.

Monera also says he learned valuable lessons from his other "fathers" or the executives he worked for before joining Ayala Land in 1993, who include Rafael Simpao, Ed Olaguer and Toto Estuar.

"From them I got a collection of business advice on the value of foresight, interpersonal skills, financial wizardry, decisiveness, humility, global business, confidence, full disclosure, good blend of work and fun—that I still apply today," he says.

Also a big influence was Jose Miravite, the dean of student affairs of his alma mater, Manuel Luis Quezon University, who told the country lad from Plaridel, Misamis Occidental that "things happen not just by thinking about what needs to be done, but by delivering in tangible terms the results of your thinking."

He now shares these and other lessons with his friends, associates and employees, especially those who harbor ambitions of becoming chief executive officers themselves.

Climbing up the corporate ladder following dad's examples

"Going up the corporate ladder is quite tough. For starters, you should have a definition and clear distinction of what is right and what is wrong, so you don't get confused and keep on the right track. This is the very foundation of integrity," he says.

He also preaches the values of developing a network of business associates/friends and support system; mastering the art of delegation; being ready to ignore the money when life's principles are on the line; and being patient when the going gets tough.

And it does get tough some-

FATHER/ B2

FRANCIS (center) with his late wife Iluminada (on wheel chair), children and first grandson

VICTORIANO Monera pins a medal on his son, Francis, who graduated valedictorian.

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'Clay village' seeks to crack into export market

By Ephraim Aguilar
Tiwi, Albay

NATURALLY ENDOWED with an abundant and distinct kind of clay, Putsan village, the cradle of pottery in Tiwi town in Albay, hopes to crack the export market now that technology has improved its age-old ceramics industry.

Putsan is a coastal village, about 7 kilometers from Tiwi proper, with about 280 households that mainly rely on pottery and fishing for a living.

Ceramics as the pride of Tiwi town is included in the town's official seal.

Improvement

The elastic quality of Putsan's clay has given hope to emerging entrepreneurs in the village that the unique raw material in their hands can have varied designs and flexible uses.

With the goal of improving Putsan's traditional pottery, the government established the Philippine Ceramics Arts and Crafts Center (Philceramics) in 1998.

A state-of-the-art terra-cotta production center in the Bicol region, Philceramics is a project of the Department of Trade and Industry and was allocated P15.7 million under the General Appropriations Act of 1994. It started operating in January 2001.

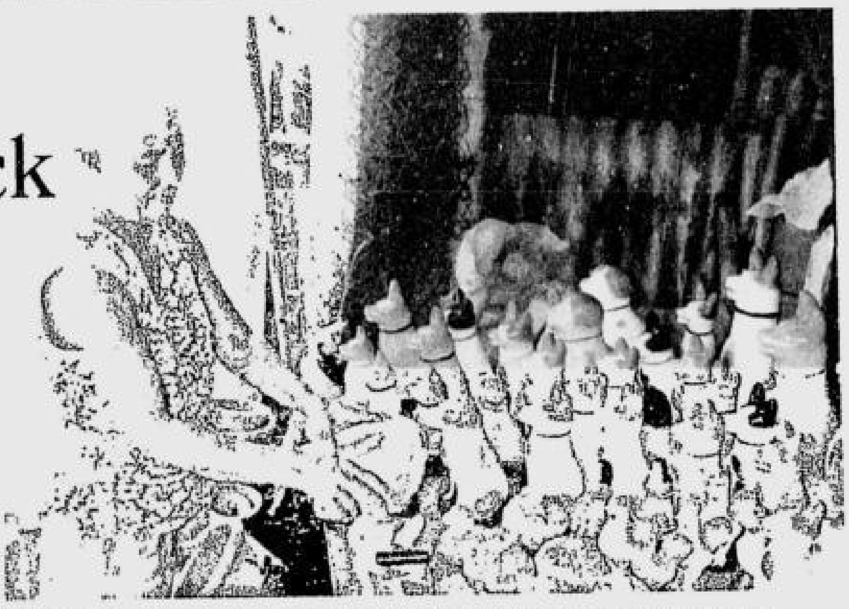
Before the service facility was put up in Putsan, the locals focused on making simple pots and jars while others engaged in fishing.

In the 1950s, these unadorned clay products were transported through sailboats traversing the Lagonoy and Albay gulfs and traded to markets in the Visayas and Mindanao.

Putsan potters also made figurines that were thick and unsophisticated, the most popular of which were coin banks shaped like a cat, dog or pig and children's toys like guns and miniature kitchenware.

But with the new Philceramics service facility and its modern technology, Putsan claymakers have enjoyed

CLAY/ B2



BEFORE modern technology was brought to Pustan's age-old ceramics industry, its potters made figurines that were then thick and unsophisticated.

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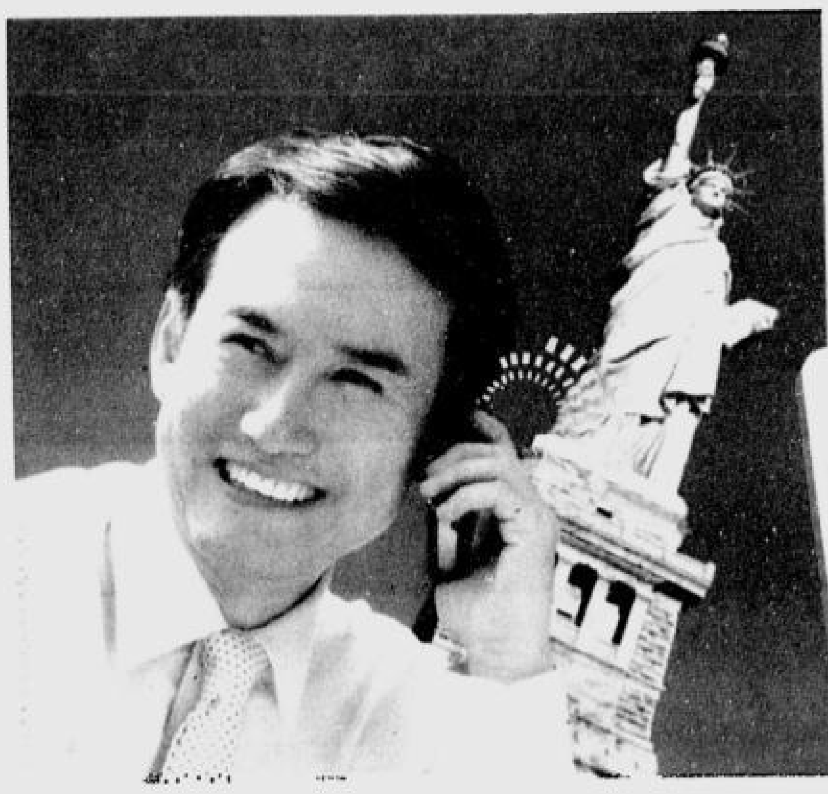

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Father knows best

From page B1

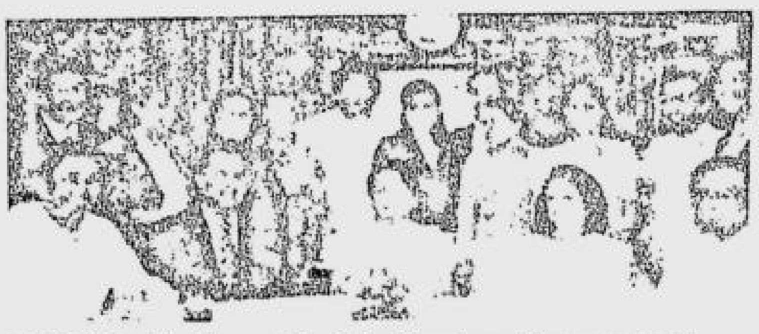
times in the highly competitive real estate business.

Monera considers himself lucky, however, because he works for a company that has grown over the past 18 years to become a market leader in Cebu with its Cebu Business Park and Asiatown IT Park.

"The challenge has always been to innovate and create something that was not there before, and by entering a new market and meeting customers' rising expectations," he says.

"This challenge also gives rise to another challenge, which is to cultivate leaders, not just managers in the company who will be instrumental in bringing the company to new heights and to whom the legacy of excellence is to be passed on," he adds.

As far as leadership goes, Monera says he relies a lot on his leadership training with the Manila Jaycees, where he trained to become the 53,719th Jaycee senator in 1994.


MONERA with officers of the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry

"The Jaycee creed that starts with "Faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life ..." and ends with "service to humanity is the best work of life" has such a great influence on me as a person and as a leader," he says.

It was through the Jaycee movement that Monera was able to launch coral reef rehabilitation projects in Luzon and his home province of Misamis Occidental.

"Establishment of networks with movers and shakers was a natural offshoot of Jaycee activities, which became very useful as one moves around in the business community," he says.

It is very useful indeed for Monera who juggles time between Cebu Holdings and the influential Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry where he is also president.

He has grand plans for both organizations.

For Cebu Holdings, Monera says he is committed to fulfilling the company's vision to be the premier real estate company in Cebu by coming up with market-driven products while improving the quality of life of communities it serves.

And for the chamber, Monera says he and the group are working hard to improve the business climate in Cebu and possibly have the entire province declared as an economic zone.

MONERA (third from left) during a business meeting in Saudi Arabia

Such commitments do impinge on time for family, but Monera says that he has been fortunate enough to have nurtured strong relationships with his five children and three grandchildren.

"Making them live according to the right values and inculcating the right virtues is the foundation for their own growth. I can actually relate it to the business theme that our company adopted this year, which is 'strengthening the value delivery chain and nurturing relationship,'" he says.

"The relationship referred to in the context of business is with customers, all stakeholders, employees and the community at large," he says.

He adds that he has been able to accomplish so much because he could always count on the support of his children and his late wife, with whom he was married to for 33 years.

"I believe that for someone to have a balanced life and to be a successful executive, the most important element is having a stable family. This is the strongest foundation that anyone should have if one were to aspire for great successes in life," he says.

"I sincerely thank my family for being such a great source of inspiration, especially my wife who joined her Creator last month and blessed with God's peace in His kingdom," he adds.

Spoken like another father who knows best.

Making it in digital arts

YOU CHANCE UPON INFORMATION about an upcoming concert pasted on a comfort room door. Stumble across the latest deodorant brand ad in a busy underpass on the way to work or catch a fleeting glimpse of the face of your favorite actress as your train rushes by a billboard. Companies can now reach their target market via the MRT, bus stops, walls and even flooring.

Graphic arts-related businesses continue to thrive, resulting in an increase in job opportunities for graphic artists. And it isn't hard for one to earn a living manipulating images into attention-grabbing ads. But what does it really take to make it in the field of graphic arts?

Technoprints is a large-format print company specializing in posters, billboards and vehicle graphics. Vice president Allen Sia describes the kind of graphics designers he is looking for. "They need to be very well versed with Photoshop and Illustrator. Those are the programs we use most often." He explains that being able to draw is not a necessary requirement. The work mostly involves layouting as well as various forms of editing.

After taking up a Digital Arts Program at First Academy of Computer Arts, Pauline Garcia was hired by Technoprints as an in-house graphics designer.

Lucid multimedia is another leading edge company specializing in the field of 3D and web applications. Director Jericho Viejo also gave his thoughts on his ideal digital artist. "A good grasp of photo editing and 3D modeling is vital in our 3D department. Likewise, adequate knowledge of vector art, key framing, tweening, other 2d animation mechanics and a keen eye for good layout and color play are required in our web department," Jericho said. All these subjects are taken up at the academy.

Kristelle Versoza works for Lucid Multimedia. Like Pauline Garcia, she is also an alumnus of First Academy of Computer Arts.

Lucid and Technoprints are some of the companies that get their artist requirements from First Academy.

Digital Arts courses are finished in a matter of months. Combine that with hard work and dedication and you are on your way to landing your first job, or shifting to a better one.

First Academy of Computer Arts is located at the 2nd floor of Saville Building, Paseo de Roxas corner Sen. Gil Puyat (Buendia) Avenue, Makati. For more information on their Digital Arts Program and other courses, you may call 898-2724 to 26 or log on to www.firstacademy.net.

'Clay village' seeks to crack into ...

From page B1

the advantage of producing thinner ornaments which could be cut or shaped without breaking.

As the clay used is elastic, ceramic products from Putsan are more refined yet less brittle.

Challenges

It was not easy, however, to introduce new technology to the village, says Rodrigo Aguilar, provincial director of DTI-Albay and concurrent assistant regional director of DTI-Bicol.

"At first, the people in Putsan were resistant. No one was willing to start because of some misconceptions. They thought it was the government that was going to operate the plant and that they would simply be employees at the production center," Aguilar says.

It took time for the villagers to understand that the DTI had no plans of taking over the plant because the agency believed the government should not compete with, but should rather support, the private sector.

"We explained to the people that while they would use the technology provided by the government, they were still to retain their individual business," Aguilar says.

He added that they started to convince one person first, which became the project's turning point.

Other villagers realized that items made out of machine-processed clay were also saleable.

The village then formed a cooperative, the Putsan Ceramics Manufacturers' Association, whose role was to process clay through the Philceramics facility and to sell them to the entrepreneurs.

"The common service facility is a big help, especially since the villagers could not individually buy modern equipment," Aguilar says.

THE CERAMICS is now being introduced to the world of interior design.

THE MOST popular designs are cat, dog or pig, children's toys and miniature kitchenware.

Breakthroughs

New products were introduced in the form of decorative chimes, candle holders, elegant jars, vases and lamps.

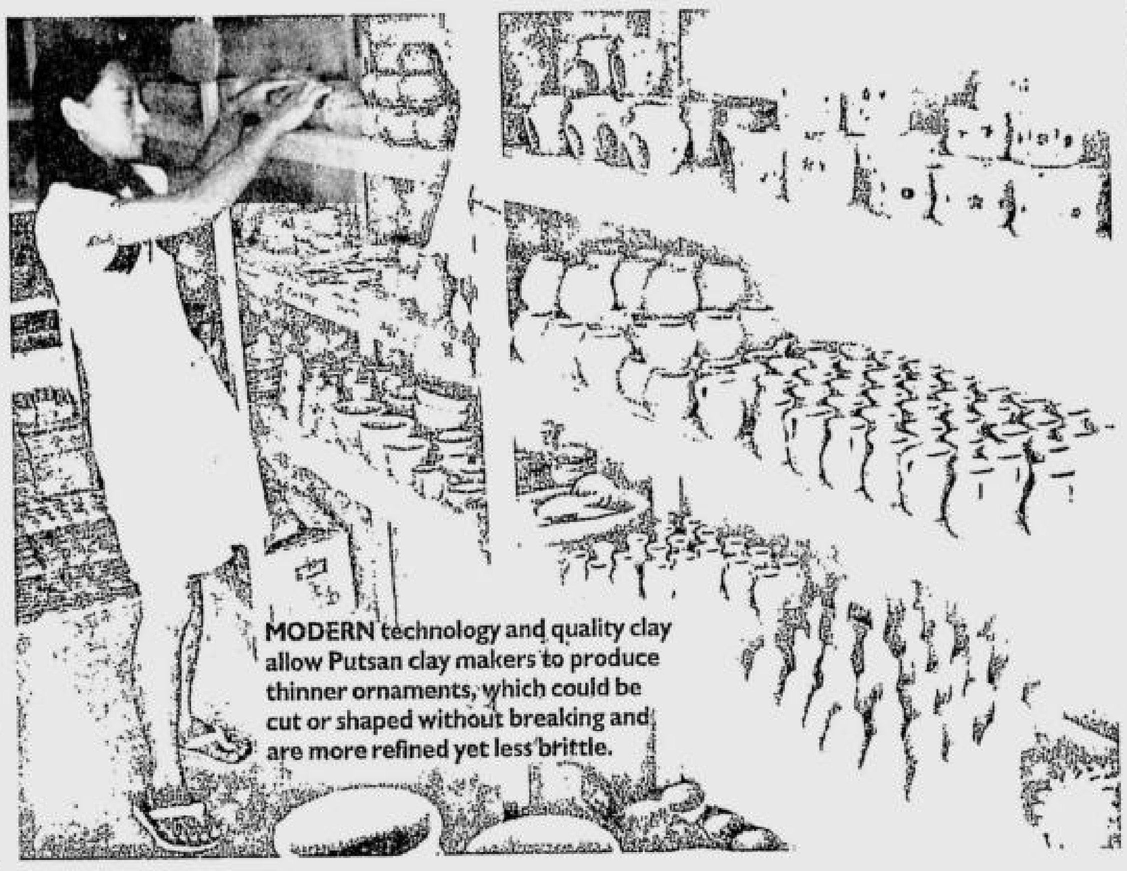
Some ceramics-made accessories were also fashioned into accents for bags, curtains and blinds.

The ceramics from Tiwi, because of its improved quality and design, is now gradually being introduced to the world of fashion and interior design.

The Philceramics, which has been identified as a tourist destination by the Department of Tourism, has developed 25 new entrepreneurs in Putsan who are active users of the service facility.

Hector Torrente, 44, one of the villagers using the Philcermics service facility, was an elevator technician in Manila for four years before he engaged full-time in ceramics production in February 2001.

Torrente, owner of the Bikol Ceramika, one of the leading ceramics businesses in Putsan, says they first concentrated on local buyers while they continuously sought ways to improve their products for export.


MODERN technology and quality clay allow Putsan clay makers to produce thinner ornaments, which could be cut or shaped without breaking and are more refined yet less brittle.

As clay used is elastic, products from Putsan are more refined yet less brittle

"We have to upgrade our products because they have great potentials. We have a vision to export, maybe in two years' time," says Torrente, who is also the president of the PCMA, now composed of 57 members.

Bikol Ceramika's first market was a company that needed ceramic accents for its wall frame products and some walk-in buyers to its outlet in Putsan.

Torrente sought exposure for his crafts in regional trade fairs and has been a regular exhibitor in the National Trade Fair.

He used these events as opportunities to expose his products to potential buyers.

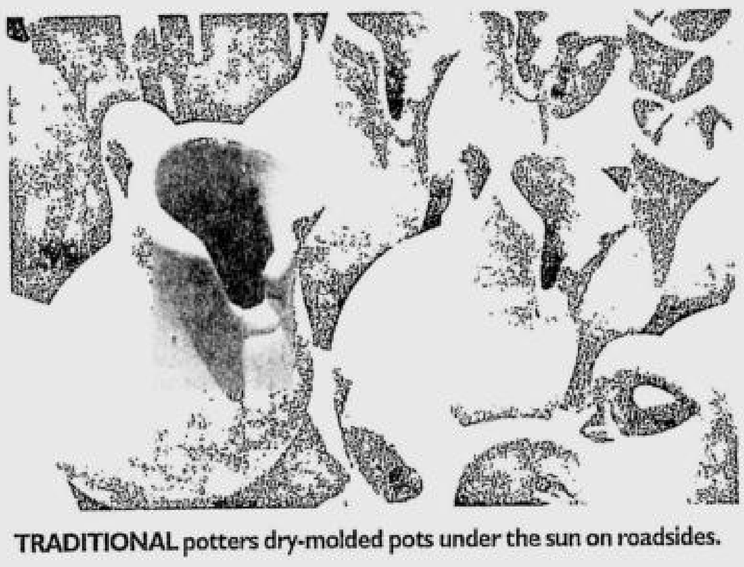
Communal enterprise

The villagers, who are traditionally gifted in making pottery, found livelihood in Bicol Ceramika by becoming its "parahurma," the local term for "potter."

Torrente distributed processed clay to the parahurma in the village for them to mold right inside their homes. This made modern pottery a communal enterprise in Putsan.

The parahurma delivered back to Torrente items such as candleholders, vases and ceramic accents that looked like cookies, which were then heated in Philceramica's petroleum gas-powered ovens.

The products were then prepared to be shaped into decorative chimes like butterflies and flowers or miniature jars cut and holed to become candleholders and aroma therapy burners.


TRADITIONAL potters dry-molded pots under the sun on roadsides.

Product prices vary depending on size and design but do not exceed P500.

Ceramic accents, which could be used for bags and curtains and could be turned into chimes, are sold at P1 each. Candleholders range from P50 to P65 while vases are from P50 to P250.

Torrente says the products are mainly for local consumption since bringing them to Manila would be expensive due to the costly freight services from Bicol.

Bikol Ceramika produces an average of 20 to 40 kilos of clay daily. The peak season of the industry is from December to March.

Standard of living

Modern pottery is also seen to have uplifted the people's standard of living.

Aguilar says they had not yet conducted a concrete study on the effects of Philceramics on the economic status of the villagers but they had seen indicators of progress in the impoverished village.

"Before, no one in the village owned a mobile phone but now many can afford to have one. There are now five households who own motorcycles and three who were able to put up their own display centers of their products," Aguilar says.

He also told a story about a family in Putsan that relied on fishing for a living. However, the irregularity of the catch and low income prompted them to engage in ceramics.

Traditions kept

Realizing it would provide bigger opportunities and higher income, they shifted to pottery full time.

MOST of the households in Barangay Putsan in Tiwi, Albay, are into pottery.

Despite technological advancements brought by the DTI through the Philceramics to Putsan, many potters still chose to abide by the traditional method of pottery.

Torrente said that while some of the locals were not yet ready to adapt to the modern processes, there was never a competition between the traditional and modern potters.

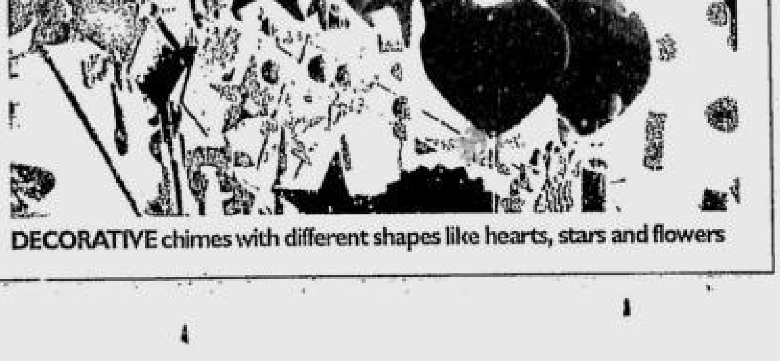
"The two groups have different markets. The traditional potters produce pots and big jars while the modern potters invest on decorative items," he says.

He adds that of the 80 percent of households in Putsan that were into pottery, 20 percent used the Philceramics service facility while 60 percent stuck to the traditional methods of production.

Traditional potters dry clay and molded pots under the sun on roadsides and in front of their houses. They use the conventional way of baking by burning piles of hay and chaff on their yards with molded items underneath.

Tiwi Mayor Jaime C. Villanueva says the local government is extending a big financial help to the industry because of the long-term goal to penetrate the export market.

"Now that we have a production center, we plan to establish a training center so that our products will improve. We also have to develop our packaging and marketing," Villanueva says.


DECORATIVE chimes with different shapes like hearts, stars and flowers

The 5 'big' challenges in life

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE DO NOT have less challenging lives than those who do not succeed. In fact, they may go through even greater challenges. What causes the separation? Successful people respond to difficulties differently.

It's easy to have a great attitude when things are going our way. Attitude doesn't become the difference maker until challenges arise.

In this edition of A Leader's Way, we'll look at "The Big 5," a list of the top challenges experienced by leaders, and we'll discuss steps to develop an appropriate attitude toward each challenge.

1. Discouragement

Over the course of my life, I've discovered that every leader gets discouraged. Plans fail, dreams drift out of range, or goals suffer setbacks. However, not every leader responds to discouragement the same way. Attitude dictates whether a discouraged leader will give up or get up.

Dealing effectively with discouragement

(1) Get the right perspective.

Seldom are circumstances as bad as they feel in the darkest moments. Try to put hard times in the proper perspective by distancing from them emotionally.

(2) See the right people.

Relationships either build us up or tear us down. Leaders surround themselves with encouragers who lend support and lift the load.

(3) Say the right words.

Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones, says this in his excellent work, Spiritual Depression, It's Cause and Cure: "Most of your unhappiness in life is due to the fact that you are listening to yourself rather than talking to yourself."

Thoughts stream into our minds beyond our control. Instead of succumbing to whichever thoughts happen to pop into our heads, we can purposefully fix our minds on the positive.

2. Problems

Just as every leader gets discouraged, so every leader runs into problems. When facing problems, adjusting your attitude can be a precursor to adjusting your situation. Remember: Change on the outside always follows the change on the inside.

Principles for handling problems

(1) Define what a problem is

A problem is something I can do something about. If I cannot do something about a situation, it is a fact of life, not a problem.

(2) Anticipate problems

A problem anticipated may be an opportunity, but a problem not anticipated is a simply a problem.

(3) Embrace each problem as a potential opportunity .

Problems are wake-up calls for creativity. They sharpen us by testing our reasoning and drawing out our creative juices.

3. Change

Change is an unavoidable and often unwelcome part of life. Change pushes us away from comfort by refusing to let us settle. By constantly forcing us to adapt, change sparks growth in our lives.

Coming to terms with change

(1) Determine that change will be an ongoing part of life.

Years ago, Alfred P. Sloan made the statement that the key to success in management does not lie in your ability to adjust to change; it lies in your ability to anticipate change. When we see change coming we can move along with it rather than being blindsided by it.

(2) Make a commitment to pay the price for change.

Along the journey, a leader must make sacrifices to stay abreast of change. If change doesn't cost you, it's not real change.

(3) Decide what you are not willing to change.

Leaders have a general openness to change, but they refuse to be swayed in their convictions such as faith, values and family.

4. Fear

Fear has the ability to exaggerate itself and spread throughout our life. When fear grips us, we are frozen and incapable of action. Worrisome thoughts fill our mind with distractions, and we are powerless to be productive.

How to "fix" your fears

(1) Discover the foundation of fear.

Fears are more often based on feelings than facts. To control fear, search for its underlying emotion. More often than not, you'll find fear has no rational root.

(2) Accept fear as the price of progress.

Whenever we venture into new territory, we are met with the fear of the unknown. We must be willing to step outside of our comfort zone and face the fear of the unfamiliar.

(3) Feed the right emotion, starve the wrong one.

Many times we cannot hope to avoid the emotion of fear. Despite our best efforts to have courage, fear settles into the pit of our stomach like a rock. We may never eliminate fear, but we can refuse to let it dominate. If we act according to hope and optimism, eventually our action will transform our emotions.

5. Failure

I have seen many leaders with self-sabotaging traits stemming from an unhealthy perspective toward failure.

Some leaders live with a nagging sense of impending failure. They don't believe they are good enough to succeed, and sooner or later they fulfill their self-expectations of failure.

Other leaders refuse to take risks. By sticking to safe paths, they assure themselves of failing to have significant impact.

Still other leaders allow failures to derail them. They see failure as a personal indictment rather than a step in the ongoing process of their growth as a leader.

Profit from failure

(1) Change your vocabulary.

Every good leader I've ever met has had the amazing ability to turn a setback into a springboard for greater effectiveness.

In his book, Leaders on Leadership: Interviews with Top Executives, Warren Bennis interviewed 70 of our nation's top performers in numerous fields. None of them used the word "failure" to describe their mistakes. Instead they referred to "learning experiences," "tuition paid," "detours" or "opportunities for growth."

(2) Keep a sense of humor.

Give yourself margin to make mistakes. Laugh at your failures rather than languishing in them.

(3) Make failure a learning experience

Attitude, the difference maker, is the one thing that enables a leader to rise above these challenges.

Happy father's day!

(For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, please e-mail at bingericta@gmail.com or call 813-2049/2732)

Helping SMEs get credit

THE UNIVERSITY OF the Philippines through the Institute for Small Scale Industries signed an agreement with the German Development Cooperation—Small and Medium Enterprise Development for Sustainable Employment Program (GTZ-SMEDSEP) to institutionalize SME finance trainings for rural banks and thrift banks in the Philippines. Supporting this initiative to further intensify lending to the small and-medium-sized enterprises are the Small Business Corp. (SBC), the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines (RBAP) and the Chamber of Thrift Banks (CTB).

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June 6, 2007

NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to the provision for Section 2601 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended, in correlation with CAO 5-90 as implemented by CMO 5-2003 dated 17 March 2003, there will be a PUBLIC AUCTION (sealed bidding) on June 26, 2007 from 2:30 P.M. until terminated at Bldg. 303, Customs Clearance Area, Kalaklan Gate, Port of Subic, of the hereunder listed lots. For further inquiry/particulars, please call the office of the District Collector at tel.no. (047) 252-3534 or the Office of the Auction and Cargo Disposal Unit with tel. no. (047) 252-4696.

Sale Lot No 01-05 Consignee DAEYONG TRADING Decree of Abandonment dated 7 Jan.05 5th Advertisement	One (1) Unit Used Hyundai Grandeur 1987 Model • Color: Black Chassis No. KMHNF21FPKU015611 "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price Php 42,486.40 Sale Lot No. 05-05 Consignee. DAEYONG TRADING Decree of Abandonment dated 7 Jan.05 4th Advertisement	Location: NSD One (1) Unit Used Hyundai Sonata 1991 Model • Color: Blue Chassis No. KMHBF31FPMU372320 "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: 46,808.00 Sale Lot No 06-05 Consignee DAEYONG TRADING Decree of Abandonment dated 7 Jan.05 5th Advertisement	Location: NSD One (1) Unit Used Hyundai Sonata 1991 Model • Color: Blue Chassis No. KMHBF3331FPNU420102 "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 46,808.00 Sale Lot No 07-05 Consignee DAEYONG TRADING Decree of Abandonment dated 7 Jan.05 5th Advertisement	Location NSD One (1) Unit Used Hyundai Sonata 1990 Model • Color: White Chassis No. KMHBF21DPNU424221 "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 42,486.40 Sale Lot No 08-05 Consignee DAEYONG TRADING Decree of Abandonment dated 7 Jan.05 6th Advertisement	Location: NSD One (1) Unit Used Hyundai Grandeur 1990 Model • Color: Gray Chassis No. KMHNF21FPJU008549 "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price. Php 42,486.40 Sale Lot No 04-48 Consignee. SUBIC ACROPOLIS S.I. No 2002-71 7th Advertisement	Location: , NSD One (1) Unit Used Nissan Terrano Chassis No WB4-D21-055911 LHD "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 159,160.00 Sale Lot No. 14-05 Consignee: Bayshore Gen. Mdse. Abandonment Proceeding No. 2005-03 3rd Advertisement	Location: NSD One (1) Unit Used Nissan Caravan RHD 1989 Model • Color: White Chassis No. VRMGE24-013579 "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 92,138.40 Sale Lot No 15-05 Consignee Bayshore Gen Mdse. Abandonment Proceeding No 2005-03 3rd Advertisement	Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD One (1) Unit Used Mitsubishi Delica RHD 1991 Model • Color: Light Blue Chassis No. P35W-0112297 "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price, Php 116,535.70 Sale Lot No 18-05 Consignee Bayshore Gen. Mdse. Abandonment Proceeding No. 2005-03 3rd Advertisement	Location Warehouse 1012, NSD One (1) Unit Used Toyota Lucida RHD 1992 Model • Color: Silver Chassis No CXR21-0002849 "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price. 158,589.40 Sale Lot No 19-05 Consignee Bayshore Gen Mdse Abandonment Proceeding No 2005-03 3rd Advertisement	Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD One (1) Unit Used Toyota Caldina RHD 1993 Model • Color: Dark Blue Chassis No ST195-5005557 "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 97,575.00 Sale Lot No 35-05 Consignee FG 628 Trading Co. Abandonment Proceeding No. 2005-02 3rd Advertisement	Location Warehouse 1012, NSD One (1) Unit Used Mitsubishi Pajero RHD 1989 Model • Color: Dark Gray Chassis No L149G-3021038 "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 97,995.50 Sale Lot No 36-05 Consignee FG 628 Trading Co. Abandonment Proceeding No 2005-02 3rd Advertisement	Location. Warehouse 1012, NSD One (1) Unit Used Nissan Serena RHD 1993 Model • Color Gray Chassis No KVC23-022018 "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 118,089.00 Sale Lot No 37-05 Consignee FG 628 Trading Co. Abandonment Proceeding No 2005-02 3rd Advertisement	Location Warehouse 1012, NSD One (1) Unit Used Isuzu MU RHD 1990 Model • Color: Black Chassis No UCS17DW-7100899 "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price Php 92,699.50 Sale Lot No. 41-05 Consignee FG 628 Trading Co., Abandonment Proceeding No. 2005-02 3rd Advertisement	Location Warehouse 1012, NSD One (1) Unit Used Toyota Lite Ace RHD 1992 Model • Color: Black Gray Chassis No CR21-0171503 "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price Php 114,947.80 Sale Lot No. 42-05 Consignee FG 628 Trading Co. Abandonment Proceeding No 2005-02 3rd Advertisement	Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD One (1) Unit Used Mitsubishi Delica RHD 1991 Model • Color: Green Chassis No P35W-0206892 "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price Php 103,925.10 Sale Lot No 43-05 Consignee FG 628 Trading Co., Abandonment Proceeding No. 2005-02 3rd Advertisement	Location Warehouse 1012, NSD One (1) Unit Used Toyota Lite Ace RHD 1992 Model • Color: Dark Gray Chassis No CR21-0109005 "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 126,720.00 Sale Lot No 45-05 Consignee FG 628 Trading Co. Abandonment Proceeding No 2005-02 3rd Advertisement	Location Warehouse 1012, NSD One (1) Unit Used Mitsubishi Delica RHD 1992 Model • Color: Green Chassis No P25W-0617275 "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 110,570.20 Sale Lot No 46-05 Consignee Bayshore Gen Mdse Decree of Abandonment dated 7 Jan.05 1st Advertisement	Location Warehouse 1012, NSD One (1) Unit Used Nissan Bongo RHD 1992 Model • Color: Maroon Chassis No. SSF8R-274754 "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price Php 131,348.00 Sale Lot No 47-05 Consignee Bayshore Gen Mdse Decree of Abandonment dated 7 Jan.05 1st Advertisement	Location Warehouse 1012, NSD One (1) Unit Used Mits Delica RHD 1992 Model • Color: Blue and White Chassis No P25W-03054428 "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price Php 106,830.00 Sale Lot No 48-05 Consignee Bayshore Gen Mdse. Decree of Abandonment dated 7 Jan.05 1st Advertisement	Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD One (1) Unit Used Nissan Terrano RHD 1992 Model • Color: Black Chassis No. WBYD21-076782 "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 181,390.00 Sale Lot No 49-05 Consignee Asialink Trading Decree of Abandonment dated 7 Jan.05 1st Advertisement	Location Warehouse 1012, NSD One (1) Unit Used Ssangyong Korando Family 1992 Model • Color: Blue Chassis No. KPARB5CPINP140181 "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 89,339.60 Sale Lot No 50-05 Consignee Asialink Trading Decree of Abandonment dated 7 Jan.05 1st Advertisement	Location Warehouse 1012, NSD One (1) Unit Used Ssangyong Korando Family 1992 Model • Color Silver/Blue Chassis No KPARB5CPIPP145988 "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 89,339.60 Sale Lot No 51-05 Consignee. Daeyong Trading Decree of Abandonment dated 7 Jan.05 1st Advertisement	Location Warehouse 1012, NSD One (1) Unit Used Mitsubishi Eclipse 1989 Model • Color: Red Chassis No. D22A-0000408 "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price Php 169,615.00 Sale Lot No 52-05 Consignee: Daeyong Trading Decree of Abandonment dated 7 Jan.05 1st Advertisement	Location. Warehouse 1012, NSD One (1) Unit Used Audi 80 1.9E 1988 Model • Color: Silver Chassis No WAUZZZ89UA347219 "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 84,751.00 Sale Lot No 53-05 Consignee Daeyong Trading Decree of Abandonment dated 7 Jan 05 1st Advertisement	Location Warehouse 1012, NSD One (1) Unit Used Toyota Land Cruiser 1988 Model • Color: White Chassis No BJ74-0000232 "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 117,118.00 Sale Lot No 54-05 Consignee Daeyong Trading Decree of Abandonment dated 7 Jan.05 1st Advertisement	Location Warehouse 1076 NSD One (1) Unit Used Toyota Land Cruiser 1988 Model • Color: White Chassis No. "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price Php 117,118.00 Sale Lot No 56-05 Consignee: PCS Cargo Movers D.A dated 17 October 2005 1st Advertisement	Location: Warehouse 1076, NSD 30 x 20 container Ceramic Tiles • Various sizes, designs and colors "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price. Php 21,522,083.00 Sale Lot No 57-05 Consignee PCS Cargo Movers D.A dated 17 October 2005 1st Advertisement	Location NSD Compound 10 x 20 container Ceramic Tiles • Various sizes, designs and colors "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 7,174,021.20 Sale Lot No 03-07 Consignee: Raiden 1st Advertisement	Location. NSD Compound One (1) lot Video Monitors (29" and 21") • 30 units "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 153,254.00 Sale Lot No 04-07 1st Advertisement	Location NSD Compound One (1) lot Used Production lights "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 251,000.00 Sale Lot No 05-07 1st Advertisement	Location NSD Compound One (1) lot used scooters and motorcycles "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price Php 214,000.00 Sale Lot No 06-07 1st Advertisement	Location: NSD Compound One (1) lot various replacement parts and used Tire rims of various sizes "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 35,000.00 Sale Lot No 07-07 1st Advertisement	Location: NSD Compound One (1) lot Ceramic Tile Maker branded as "Fuccoli" (Made in Italy) "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 1,533,865.00 Sale Lot No 08-07 1st Advertisement	Location. NSD Compound One (1) Unit Used Korean Military Jeep 1987 Model • Color: Black Chassis # 90AM-01-02253 "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price. Php 40,913.00 Sale Lot No 09-07 1st Advertisement	Location NSD Compound One (1) Unit Used Korean Military Jeep 1987 Model • Color: Black Chassis # 90AM-01-022388 "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 40,913.00 Sale Lot No 10-07 1st Advertisement	Location NSD Compound One (1) Unit Used Coronado Speed Boat "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price Php 353,422.00 Sale Lot No 11-07 1st Advertisement	Location NSD Compound One (1) Unit Used Blue Larson Hampton SpeedBoat "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price Php 529,028.00 Sale Lot No 12-07 1st Advertisement	Location: NSD Compound One (1) Unit Used Duck Hams SpeedBoat "AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price. Php 397,651.00	Location NSD Compound

(Sgd.) Atty. MARIETTA D. ZAMORANOS
District Collector

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Only one number 1.
According to Nielsen Media Research,
that's the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
Thanks of course to you our readers.
We are where we are
because we put you, first.

Source Nielsen Media Index 13 Wave 1
Based on urban national yesterday broadsheet readers

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
daughter of Col. Conrado L. Banal

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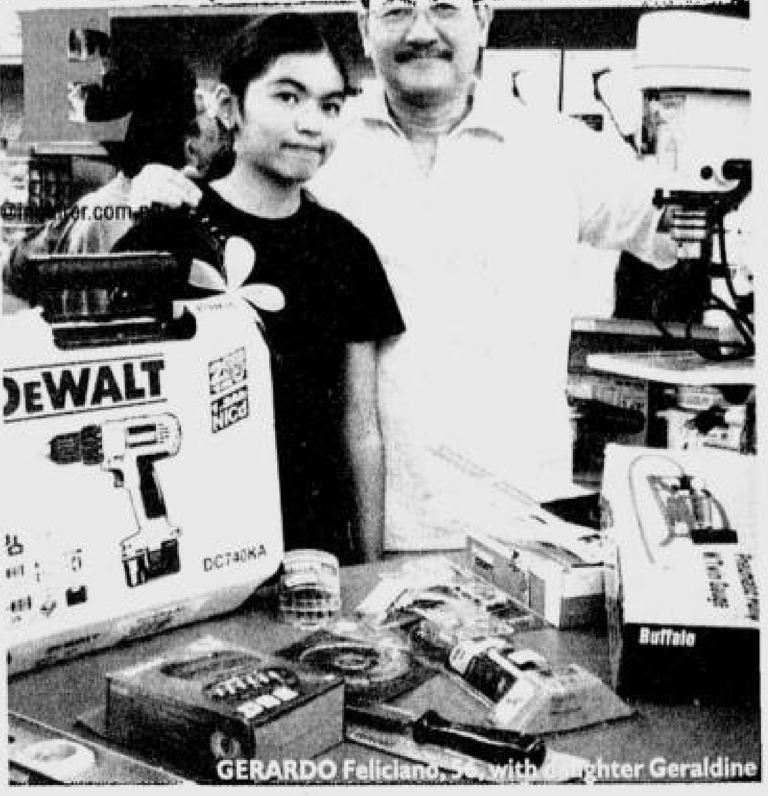
IN THIS ISSUE
- **Sea Princess shops** and prays in Rome /F2
- **Upscale Pinoy resto** opens in Singapore /E1

FATHER'S DAY WINNERS

Handy daddies

VICTORIO D. Berrey, 52



GERARDO Feliciano, 56, with daughter Geraldine

WE ASKED INQUIRER READers to nominate their daddies who have a knack for doing smashing home repairs and improvements. Although we got terrific response—we had to plough through mountains of letters sent through snail or electronic mail—we had to choose only four due to space constraints.

The tremendous response should indicate how people readily express their fondness for their fathers, who are however stereotyped as tight-lipped, reticent, and rather unwilling to show their emotions.

And since fathers would express what they feel through deeds rather than words or emotions, INQUIRER thought it best to reward each of the winners with a P20,000 gift check from Handyman.

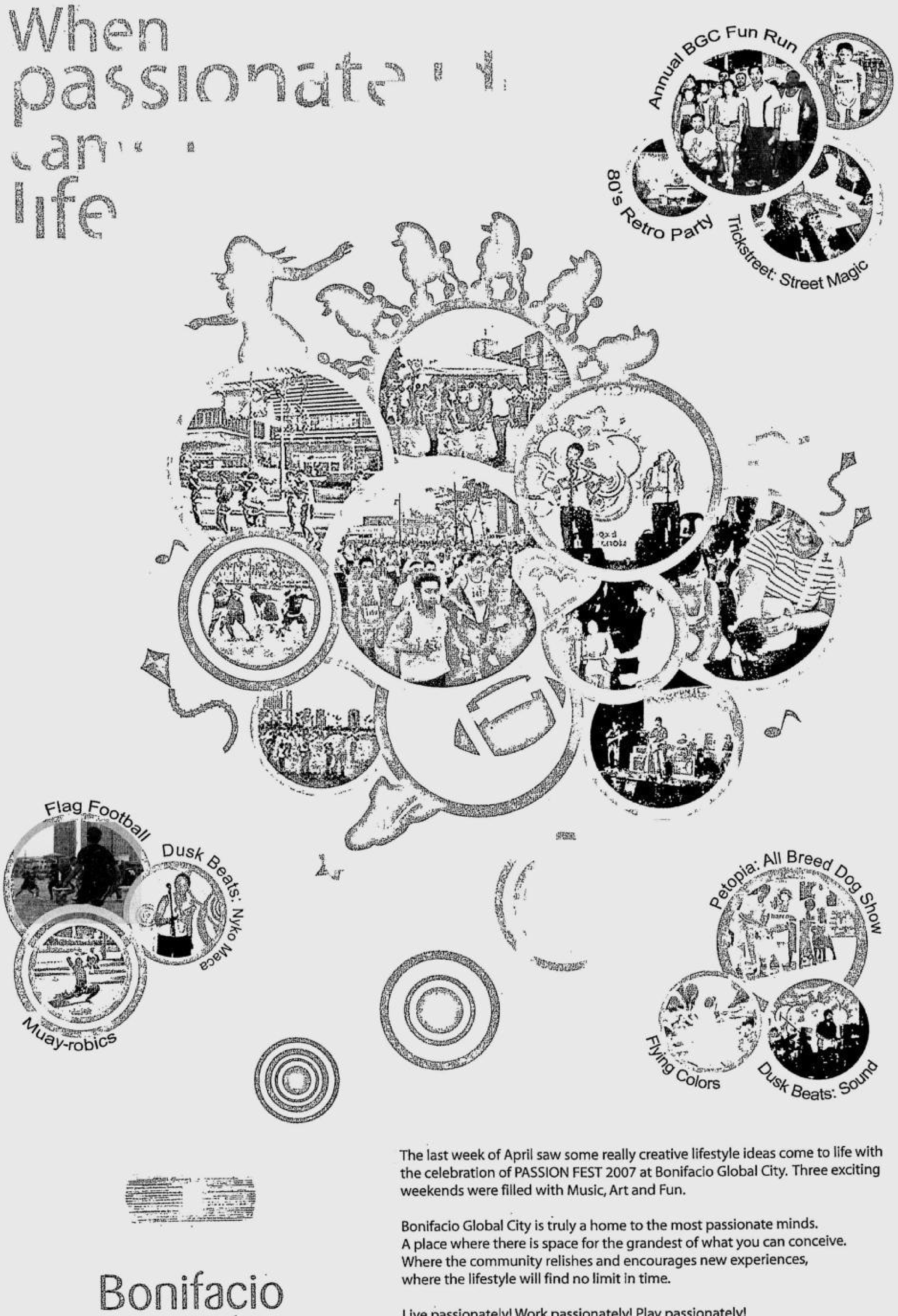
By shopping for handy tools, the handy daddies got the equipment they needed to make home improvements that have always been their way of showing to their loved ones how much they care.

And since all fathers always have a soft heart for family photos and mementos, each of the winners also received a Samsung digital camera from Robinsons Appliances—the better for them to take and keep snapshots of the best of family time.

GERONIMO "Momoy" Mamuyac, 58

CIRILO Manalastas, 57, with son Jose Elias a.k.a. Fr. Anselm

Sunday Lifestyle wishes to thank Handyman Home Center, Robinsons Appliances and Uncle John's in Robinsons Galleria for their help and generosity.



The last week of April saw some really creative lifestyle ideas come to life with the celebration of PASSION FEST 2007 at Bonifacio Global City. Three exciting weekends were filled with Music, Art and Fun.

Bonifacio Global City is truly a home to the most passionate minds.
A place where there is space for the grandest of what you can conceive.
Where the community relishes and encourages new experiences,
where the lifestyle will find no limit in time.

Live passionately! Work passionately! Play passionately!
Do it all in the city that will let your ideas flourish,
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Bonifacio
Home of passionate minds

THE PASSION FEST
at BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY.

ART PLAY
passion fest

forward taguig

FINDING solace, excitement and adventure in a hardware store

'Daddy is a Do-It-Yourself genius'

'The smile on his face is so bright every time he goes there,' says Ian Berrey of his father Victorio's frequent visits to Handyman

Text by Constantino C. Tejero,
son of Pacifico Gonzales Tejero
Photos by Romy Homillada

IT WAS INEVITABLE. THE MOMENT the subjects of the four winning entries in our Father's Day letter-writing contest each got his gift certificates worth P20,000, everyone proceeded to Handyman's section for power tools.

Victorio D. Berrey, 52, an officer 3 in the Central Bank, said he already had several at home, so he looked for something *"pandagdag lang."*

He chose to have a grinder (P5,695) with attachments: rubber side handle (P179.50); metal cup brush for removing rust (P275); diamond wheel for cutting ceramic tiles (P347).

The rest of his purchases ranged from sand paper (P14.75), kitchen cloth (P89.75) and flannel rag (P99.75), to a pruner (P239), a sanding block (P249.75), a six-piece flatwood bit set (P435), a turbo-powered hand vacuum (P1,995). The most expensive was a 185-mm circular saw (P7,175).

VIC Berrey, with son Ian and daughter Kristine, receives a digital camera from Handyman assistant manager Jane Yuzon.

But he had over P3,000 still to spend that afternoon. So he wandered around the store looking for more items, aided by daughter Kristine and son Christian.

It was Christian, nicknamed Ian, 27, who sent the winning letter. A political science graduate now taking up law, he teaches at De La Salle University.

At home, he can do the basics in plumbing and electricity, such as changing washer and ballast. But it is his father whom he considers the Do-It-Yourself genius.

Recycling master

"Our daddy is a genuine homeboy," he reveals. "But you won't see him slouched on the sofa watching marathon TV series. He is always busy fixing, repairing, doing some projects with his home-improvement tools. That's his way to relax—maintaining his car, doing carpentry work, fixing the electrical system, gardening, or any other repairs in the house."

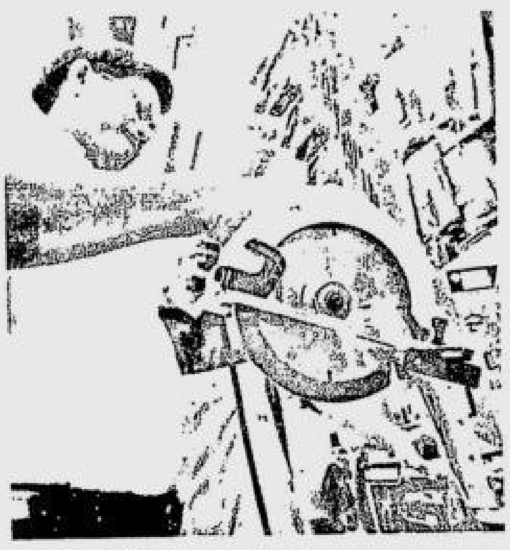
Even going to the mall becomes an extension of his father's tinkering at home. Instead of going to the section for men's apparels, he would proceed to the Handyman store, where, as his son says, he finds solace, excitement and adventure.

"The smile on his face is so bright every time he goes there," says Ian.

KRISTINE, Ian and Vic Berrey call it a day.

The father says it is force of circumstance that often drives him into tinkering at home. Sometimes he improvises his tools, and he makes his own designs for the tables, cabinets, benches, dividers or hampers he is working on. In fact, he made the baby crib of wood and plastic, including the highchair, that his three kids used through their growing-up years.

"I'm still using the study table he made when my sisters and I were little," says Ian. "That table has been with us from the time we were still learning our ABC until now when we're already about to start our own families. The furniture he made will definitely be used by his grandchildren in the future."



INSPECTING a power tool

IS THIS good enough? Is the price reasonable?

His father is a master at recycling. He works with *retaso,* discarded timber, old wood, by just sawing off the damaged or rotting portion and using the rest. When Kristine, who's a dentist, set up a clinic, he created for it a center table out of found wood.

Boy wonder

"Unlike me, my daddy does not play any sport," says Ian. "He doesn't know what to do with a golf ball or a basketball—but give him a saw, a hammer, some nails, and he'll surprise you with wonders."

He usually spends two weeks on a major project, working two hours a night after office, then the whole weekend. His latest project is making unique furniture out of uprooted trees.

It started late last year when typhoon Milenyo struck Manila and trees were strewn about in their neighborhood in Mandaluyong City. From the primary roots of a *kaymito* he created something that has since become a major décor in the house.

He's not just environmentally aware but also safety-conscious when working. Among his first purchases that afternoon at Handyman were two filter masks (P48 each), safety working glasses (P112.50), and a universal earmuff (P184.25).

At the end of their shopping binge, the Berreys' bill came up to P19,470. To close the purchase, Ian got an air freshener for P49.75 and paid the excess in cash.

They still had a P500 gift certificate left, which his father had set aside maybe for Mommy to get what she wanted at the department store or grocery, or for emergency such as when the fluorescent light at home failed.

Of course, Vic Berrey didn't forget the dogs. On the way to the cashier, he got two bags of dog chow at P195 each. As we've known all along, fathers know best.

Hands-on dads help children learn

By Queena N. Lee-Chua,
daughter of Dr. William Tan Lee

WHEN OUR SON SCOTT turned 1, his father Smith gave him his first jigsaw puzzle set. Each puzzle, composed of two pieces each, illustrated a common animal, and though Scott initially preferred to put the pieces into his mouth, he grew to love puzzles so much that his father purchased more complicated ones. By the time he turned two, Scott was already working with more than 20 pieces, and in the process, he was also getting a taste of geometry.

When Scott was 2½, we decided to go 3D. After work, Smith patiently sat with Scott and helped him build things. Sometimes they created houses and cars from Lego; other times they folded paper into animals and boats. At times these projects took days or weeks to finish, but once done, father and son cheered triumphantly.

When Scott turned 3, Smith came home with a book of magic, and to my amazement, before long, our child could perform a variety of card, dice, and coin tricks. Scott pestered his dad for more, so Smith began researching on magic on weekends. Scott began doing magic shows for our relatives, and a few years after, he was invited to do math magic for Ateneo Grade School and Xavier School students.

Helping with school

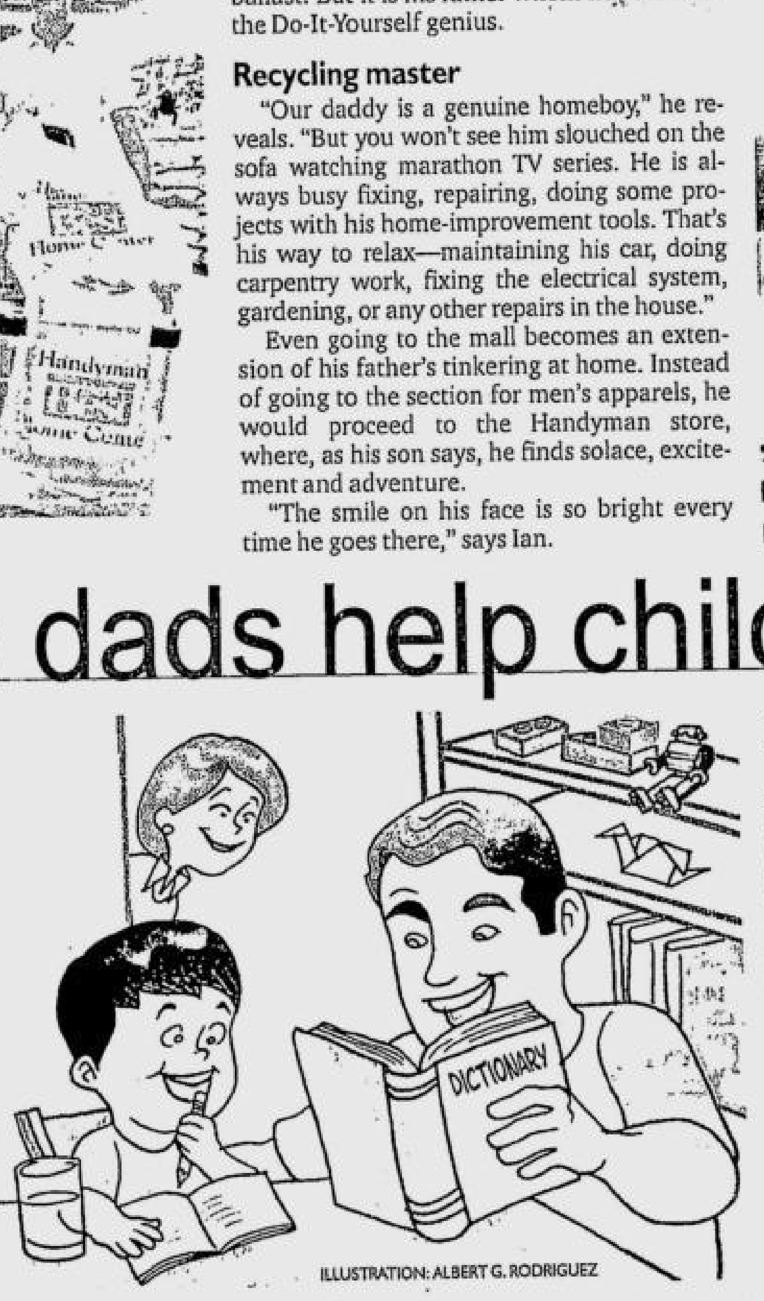


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

While mothers are still the primary nurturers, fathers are increasingly helping out as much as they can

When Scott was in preschool, not only was his dad proudly videotaping every school event, but more importantly, he helped in the preparations. For Scott's boatman role in a play about the environment, Smith made a costume out of cardboard and colored paper. Before Scott did the prep graduation address, Smith rehearsed with him every night.

When Scott entered the big school, Smith sometimes alternated tutoring duties with me, consulting Mandarin dictionaries for unfamiliar words. Before national math competitions, Smith and I reviewed questions with our son, and during the contests, we made sure to be there, offering support.

When I was requested by Scott's teacher to read a storybook in class, my husband spent a whole day doing posters to make the story more memorable for the students. Thus, many of Scott's classmates not only knew me, but also who Scott's daddy was.

Scott's dad is not a professional teacher. He does not have a psychology or education degree. He never did puzzles as a child, and definitely, no magic tricks. Art has never been his strong point.

Smith works in a multinational bank, dealing with investments, options, and trading. He is usually at the office by 7:30 a.m., and tries his best to be home by the same time at night. When he returns, he is exhausted.

But relaxation has to wait. Scott's bedtime is 8:30, so bonding time is precious. After homework, father and son fight mock duels with plastic swords, play Monopoly, discuss construction projects, or simply roll around on the bed wrestling with each other. Then Scott kisses us both, and bestows an extra-tight hug on his dad. Only when our son is finally asleep can we catch up on reading or TV.

Doing their share

Moms still play the starring role as caregiver in many families, with dads in the background. However, families cannot function very well if Dad is rarely around. Last year, marriage counselor Maribel Dionisio, Ateneo parent Nesy Fernandez, and I investigated what makes more than 2,000 public school students excel. The results, discussed in the book "Magaling ang Pinoy!" showed that while mothers are still the primary nurturers, fathers are increasingly helping out as much as they can.

For instance, a father of an honor student in Concepcion Integrated High School in Bulacan tries his best to answer his children's questions. "I never tell them to shut up just because I am tired." He discusses school with them, so he can attend to their needs.

The father of a top student in Marikina Science High School says, "I cook breakfast for my son and make sure he eats before he goes to school. I lay out his uniform. We know he has the ability to go far. We hope that he will continue being a scholar, and we are doing all we can to support him."

Fathers encourage their kids to read newspapers and books, and watch educational shows. They bring their kids on family field trips, and play sports (particularly basketball) with them. They teach their kids about finances, and as one enterprising father puts it, "how hard it is to earn money."

Guiding light

Fathers also provide moral guidance. A father whose two sons are honor students in Marikina High School says, "We give our kids not only security in health and school matters, but also guidance and advice in their hour of need." Many fathers lead the evening prayers for their families. They counsel their children to pray, particularly before exams. Several fathers are active in the parish, and expect their children to attend Bible classes on Sunday. After all, one dad reminds us, "The family that prays together, stays together."

A father of two teenage daughters, both topnotchers in Dr. Felipe de Jesus Memorial School in Plaridel, Bulacan, believes that education starts at home. He observes that family problems often start when fathers themselves gamble or drink too much, neglecting their kids, who then end up with a lot of problems. This father prioritizes his daughters, having tutored them both since primary school. He hopes they will enter college with scholarships. *"Libre ang mangarap,"* he laughs.

Helping our children learn does not require advanced degrees or professional training. Rather, it demands creativity, sacrifice, and lots of love.

"Magaling ang Pinoy!" is available at Ateneo Loyola Schools Bookstore. Call 4266001 loc 5183 or e-mail lsbookstore@admu.edu.ph.

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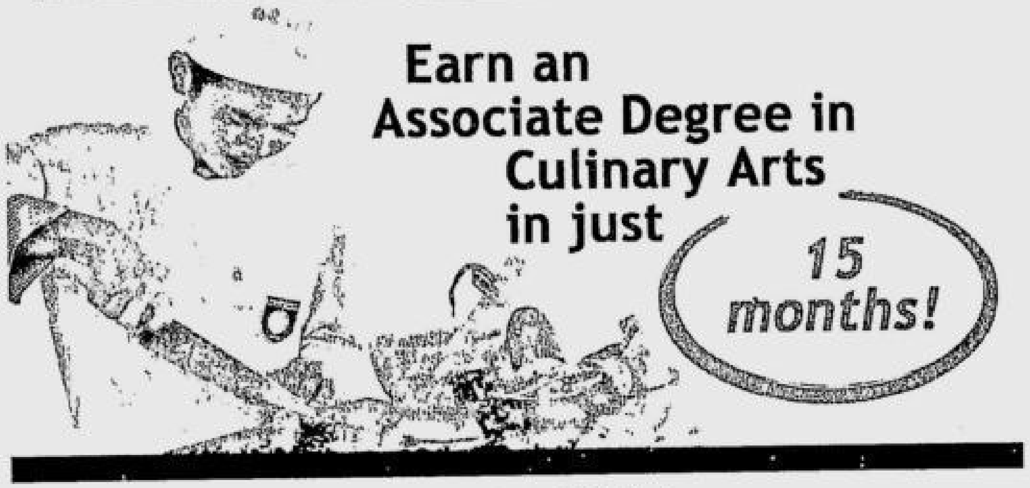

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The Philippine Pediatric Society, Inc. INFOBOX

SCHOOL READINESS

HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILD IS READY FOR SCHOOL?

Readiness for school is not determined by age alone. The child should be ready physically, emotionally and socially. When your child seems to be learning new things rapidly and explores and interacts more often with other children and when she needs more stimulation at home, then she is ready for school.

CAN MY 3 YEAR OLD CHILD START SCHOOL

If your child's development is at par with his age, he may be ready for school. That is, he knows his name, age and sex, can copy a circle, have some self-care skills, play with peers and is able to take turns.
If yes, he is ready for preschool.

IT'S BEEN TWO WEEKS SINCE THE START OF CLASSES AND YET MY CHILD STILL CRIES IN SCHOOL. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Your child may be finding it very difficult to separate from you and may not be entirely ready for school. This is especially true for very young children who have not had many opportunities to be away from their parents for prolonged periods. Your child's teacher should work with you in helping your child overcome their separation anxiety. Allow her to gradually adjust to a new environment by comforting and reassuring her.

WHY DOES MY CHILD SEEM TO HAVE DIFFICULTY MAKING FRIENDS IN SCHOOL?

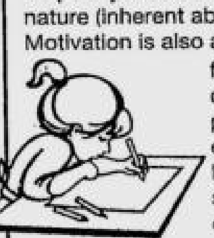
Your child may be inherently shy. Shy preschoolers and school-age children have great difficulty in interacting with others. Some children on the other hand are just less talkative than others, while some derive pleasure from solitary activities. Help your child overcome shyness by providing them with many pleasant experiences with their peers. Encourage self-confidence and provide a warm and accepting environment.

MY CHILD'S TEACHER OFTEN CALLS OUR ATTENTION BECAUSE MY SON CANNOT SIT STILL IN CLASS, DOES NOT FINISH HIS WORK ON TIME, AND IS TALKATIVE. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

When children are very young, they are naturally active with very short attention span. Hyperactivity is excessive physical movement beyond a normal or acceptable limit while attention span is the length of time a child can concentrate on a certain activity (9 minutes for 3 years olds, 12 minutes for 4 years olds and 14 minutes for 5 years olds). If the teacher constantly complains about the child's behavior, a consultation with the physician and subsequently with a developmental pediatrician may be helpful.

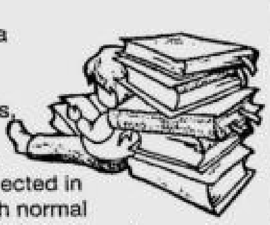
WHY IS IT THAT MY CHILD DOES POORLY IN MATH BUT DOES WELL IN OTHER SUBJECTS?

Children can excel in one area and do poorly in others as a result of nature (inherent abilities) and nurture. Motivation is also an important factor. If a child consistently does poorly in a subject, evaluation for a learning disability should be considered.



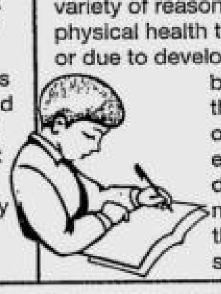
HOW WILL I KNOW IF MY CHILD HAS LD (LEARNING DISABILITY)?

Learning disability is a disorder in reading, mathematics, or written expression. This is suspected in children with normal intelligence who encounter difficulties in one or more subjects in school. A psycho-educational test may be necessary to determine if a learning disability is present.



MY CHILD IS FAILING IN SCHOOL, WHAT COULD BE THE REASON?

School failure can be due to a variety of reasons, from poor physical health to lack of motivation or due to developmental or behavioral problem. A thorough evaluation of the child's physical, emotional and developmental status may help determine the cause of the school failure.



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Para safe,
PARACETAMOL
BIOGESIC for kids
If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

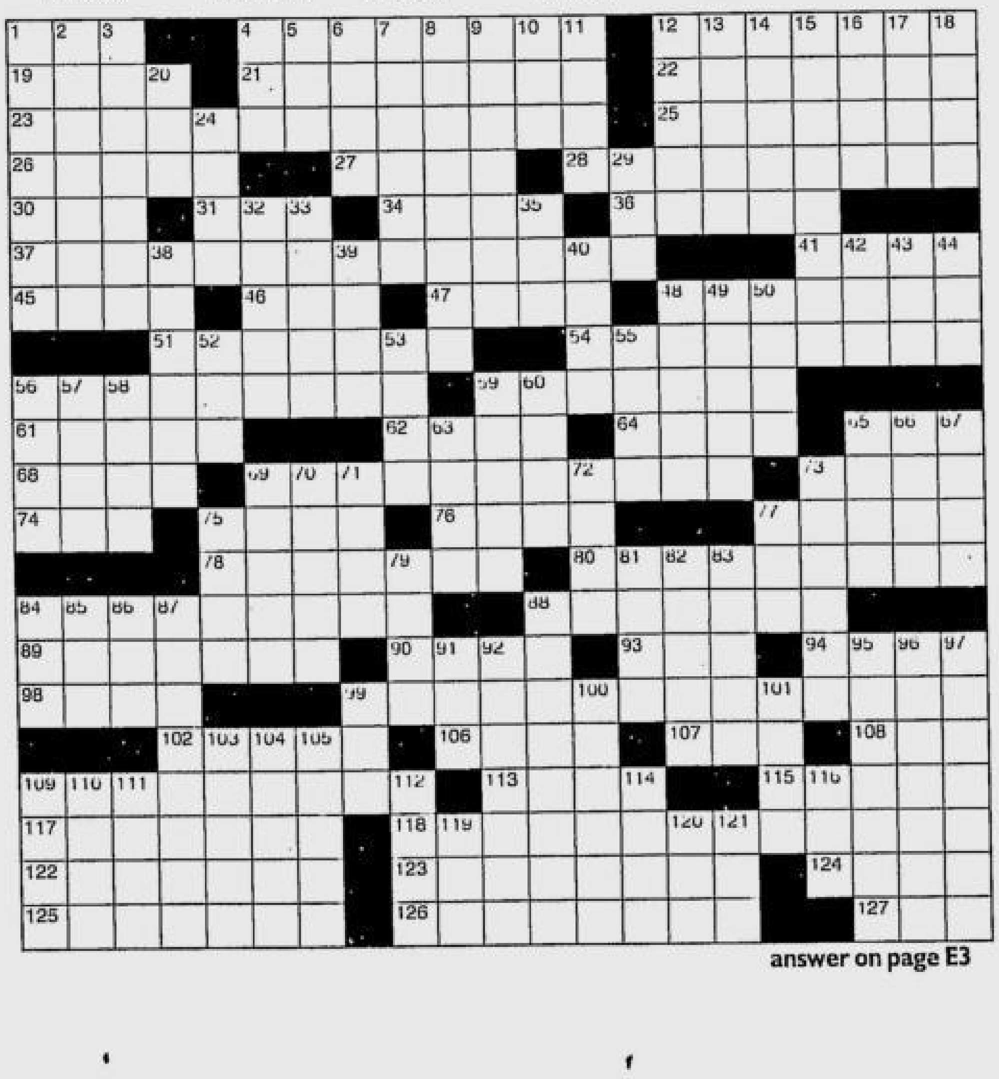
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

FATHER

ACROSS
1 Partner of aah
4 Exposed
12 Coffee variety
19 Sgt. and cpl.
21 One working with glass, at times
22 Sierra — (California mountain range)
23 "Absence of Malice" Oscar nominee
25 "Full" or "half" dives
26 1945 conference port
27 Leer at
28 Was beholden (to)
30 — whim
31 Haul to court
34 December drinks
36 Verdugo of the screen
37 Some weather warnings
41 "— your chance!"
45 Not a thing
46 Roseanne's TV hubby
47 Ephron or Dunn
48 Disgraceful goings-on
51 Heavy hammers
54 Giant in ginger ale
56 Saw things while asleep
59 Certain 117-Across
61 Presses in pleats
62 Composer Stravinsky
64 District
65 Tasseled hat
68 Slaw seller
69 Early associate of Sigmund Freud
73 Appellation
74 Suffix with computer
75 Actor Morales
76 Comfort
77 Semicolon relative
78 Book depot
80 Negotiate successfully
84 She played Octopussy in "Octopussy"
88 Kayak users
89 Tackles and guards, e.g.
90 John of New Age music
93 Gretzky's org.
94 "And fast!"
98 Radar image
99 Ezra Pound influenced her poetry
102 Actress Tea
106 Casino card game
107 Pasty-faced
108 — es Salaam (Tanzanian port)
109 A bum steer
113 Brand of corn syrup
115 Famed orca
117 Afghani's neighbor
118 MSG and the like
122 "No, No, —" (old musical)
123 Chose not to take part
124 Ebb —
125 Lays away
126 Argued logically
127 Honoree hidden in this puzzle's 11 longest answers

DOWN
1 #1 hit for Patti LaBelle and Michael McDonald
2 Islands of the central and south Pacific
3 Dutch nation
4 Young chap
5 Santa —
6 Prefix with Chinese
7 Stoops
8 Swells up
9 Fast, in music
10 Model T rival
11 Rubik of cube fame
12 Cherub, e.g.
13 Novelist Charles
14 Of birds
15 Head scarf
16 Brainstorm, in Brest
17 Low- — diet
18 Helper: Abbr.
20 Form a lap
24 Apollo org.
29 Craven of horror
32 Milk source
33 Shirk
35 Knightly title
38 Bottled water brand
39 TV's Swenson
40 Individually
42 Weird
43 Big skirmish
44 Furtive
48 Trap
49 Seat weaver
50 Hit song for Sarah McLachlan
52 Mormons' inits.
53 Qatari VIP
55 Asian sea
56 Camouflage
57 Son of Hera
58 Parcel (out)
59 The present
60 Hunks of history
63 Will of "The Waltons"
65 Celebrity
66 Austen novel
67 Fervor
69 Thespian's whisper
70 Jacob's father-in-law
71 Not budging
72 Oscar — Renta
73 Gives a silent "OK"
75 Jack of westerns
77 It needs gas
79 Piedmont wine city
81 Part of A.D.
82 Not at all, in dialect
83 Reese of TV and song
84 Mets' and Orioles' gp.
85 Feel malaise
86 Prefix with cyclist
87 Exits a 747
88 Pantomime game
91 Munchkin
92 Pierre is its cap.
95 Patron of Wales
96 Oakland's county
97 Studied
99 Sot's sound
100 El — (city of treasure)
101 Pt. of MIT
103 Singer Piaf
104 Ellipsoidal
105 Dressed to the —
109 Storage containers
110 "I smell —!"
111 Actor Elcar
112 Get an — effort
114 Take too much of, briefly
116 Strike
119 Unveil, in verse
120 Payable
121 "— be an honor"



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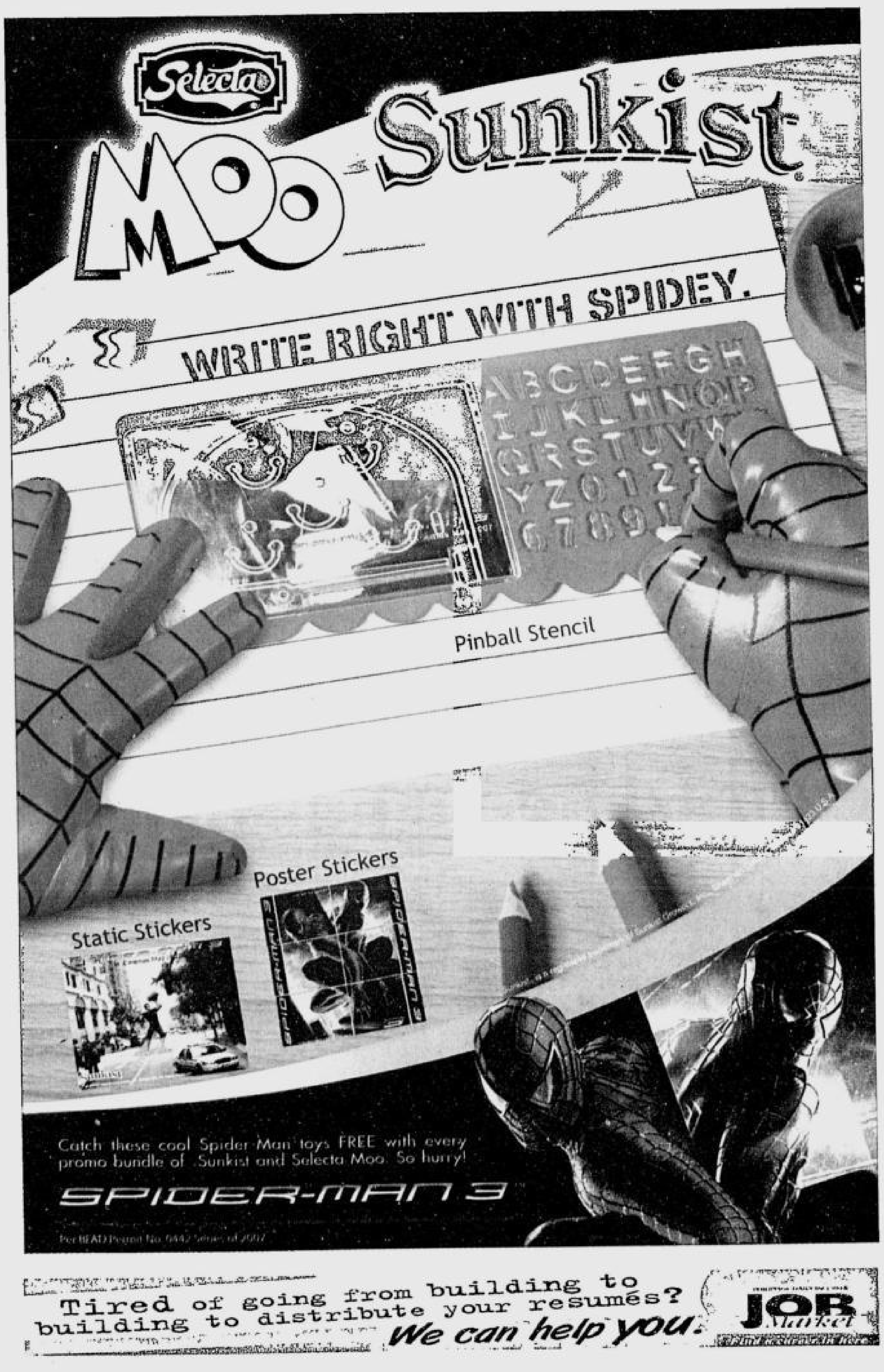

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Hammer of a father

Text by Rowena C. Burgos,
daughter of Roberto Gacusana Burgos
Photos by Ryan Lim

GERONIMO "MOMOY" MAmuyac, 58, may not be rich, but he considers his wife, six children and good old hammer as his priceless assets.

He was 20 years old when he ran away from home. Armed with a hammer, which he bought for P5, and P50 in his pocket, he traveled from Agoo, La Union to Sta. Cruz, Manila, where he lived with a cousin for six years.

"My father was forcing me to enter the priesthood. I was a sacristan then. I enjoyed helping in the church, but I had no plans of becoming a man of God. That's why I decided to escape to Manila," Mamuyac says in Filipino.

Since he had helped build and repair a great number of *nipa* huts in his hometown, Mamuyac easily got a job in a construction site in Paco. This was where he met his future wife, Conchita Higo, who was a food vendor then.

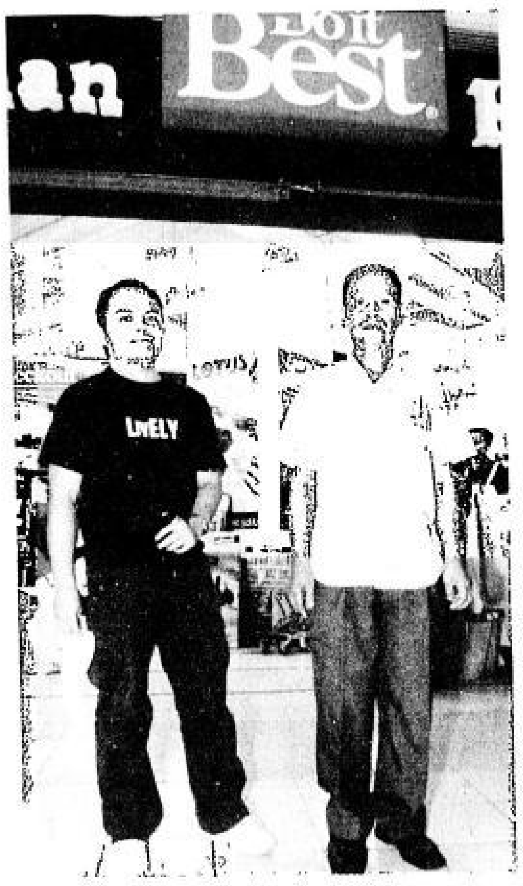
Later, he found a more stable job at the Universal Robina Corporation's warehouse of feeds, where he worked for 16 years as a stock clerk foreman. Then he was employed at the Pasig City Hall's urban poor affairs office from 1993 to 1999.

At present, Mamuyac owns a *sari-sari* store and two passenger tricycles. "I myself drive one of them. The other one has broken down but I'm currently repairing it," he says. Aside from these preoccupations, Mamuyac serves as an urban coordinator for the Pagasa't Kaunlaran Neighborhood Association in Pasig.

Once a month, he visits his parents, who are both in their late 80's, in La Union to attend to their needs. "If something needs to be repaired in their house, I do it," Mamuyac says.

TATAY Momoy buys an American Home rice cooker for wife Conchita.

His parents had wanted him to become a priest, a man of God. He fled the province and, with his trusted hammer, became a construction worker and a family man



GERONIMO Mamuyac with eldest son, Richard

TATAY Momoy goes on a shopping spree at Handyman Home Center in Robinsons Galleria.

THE MAMUYACS show off their Samsung digital camera from Robinsons Appliances.

Good parent

For Mamuyac's six children, he is all the things a good parent should be: loving, committed to raising his children, with optimism and a positive sense of self-regard. He expected his kids to help in household chores, get to school on time, earn decent grades and become good citizens.

"My siblings and I have been in awe of him; we hold him in the highest esteem," says Richard, 30, Mamuyac's eldest child, a freelance writer who works in a call center.

In an essay honoring his father, Richard reminisces on the gifts of their Tatay Momoy. "I still remember the time I got high grades when I was in third grade; he made me a wooden scooter that was the 'in' thing during those times. When I was second honor in second-year high school, he gave me a family computer worth P2,000, which was later stolen. As a replacement, he built me a pigeon house.

"Today, Tatay no longer works as a carpenter because he claims that he already lost his carpentry skills. I think this is just his way of denying his rheumatism and arthritis."

But, for Richard, the greatest gift he received from Tatay Momoy was the pink cabinet he made under the kitchen sink of his house. Pink is the favorite color of Richard's wife. "He did it last year, a month before my wedding. I just came home from work when Tatay asked me to come with him and check something he created for the house I was building for my future family.

"His voice sounded apologetic. *'Pasensiya na, anak, ha? 'Yan lang ang nakayanan ng Tatay. Wala naman akong perang pambili ng* wedding gift *e.'"*

Richard was touched by his father's gesture that he couldn't help but cry. "But I did not show it to him because I felt it was kind of corny."

Surprise gift

Richard's essay has been chosen one of the four winners in INQUIRER Lifestyle's promo for Father's Day. The winning fathers and their children who wrote the entries were recently treated to a delightful lunch at Uncle John's in Robinsons Galleria and a shopping spree at the mall's Handyman Home Center.

Handyman gifted each dad with P20,000 worth of gift certificates while Robinsons Appliances gave them Samsung digital cameras.

Tatay Momoy had no idea that his son joined such Father's Day promo. Richard, who now lives in Quezon City, fetched his dad from Pasig without telling him that they were going to claim their prize.

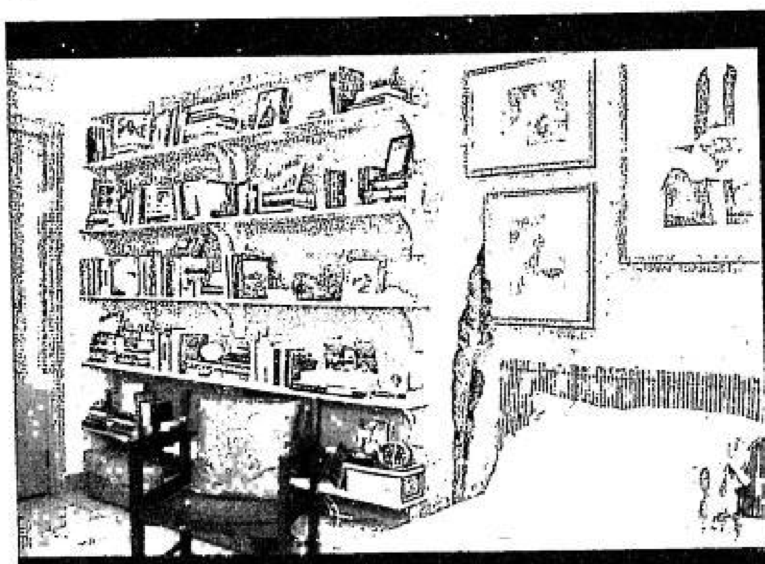
He was even more surprised when he was introduced to Janet Yuzon, Robinsons Handyman, Inc.'s assistant manager-marketing services, who congratulated him.

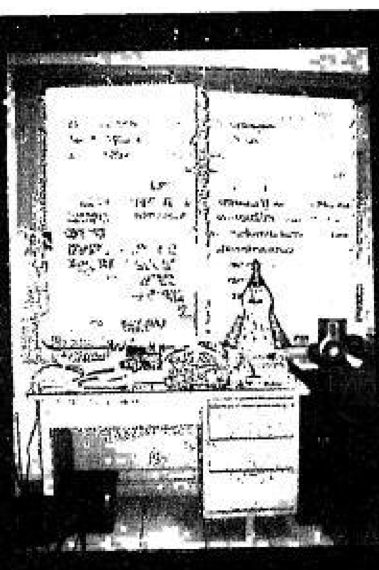
While shopping at Handyman, all Tatay Momoy could think of was what he could purchase for his children.

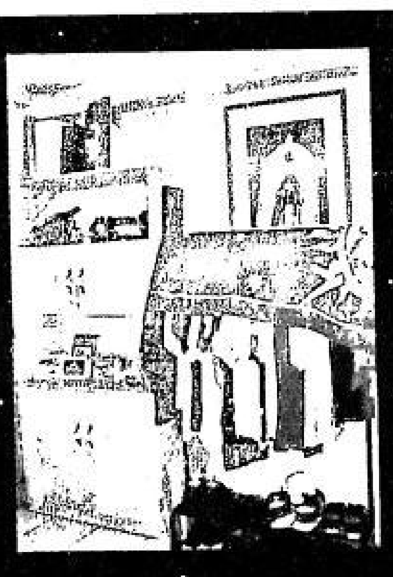
The items he bought on that day only amounted to P4,506.48. These included two Eveready flashlights and batteries, one digital lock, Lotus long nose pliers, Daiken locking pliers, a Daiken adjustable wrench, a Klestar electric fan, a can of Boysen Roofgard paint, two bottles of lacquer thinner and plastic varnish, two paint brushes, a paint roller and paint tray, an electrical tape, a door mat and American Home rice cooker.

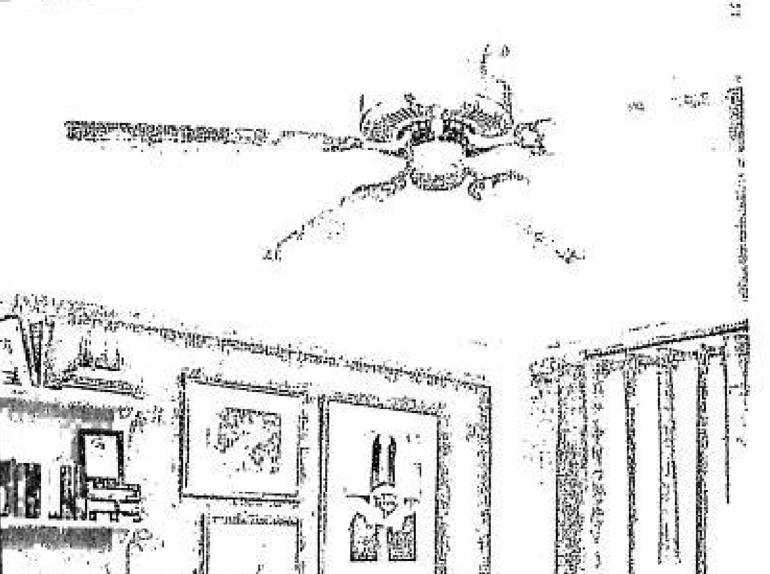
"My other children and I will just return to Handyman on another occasion so they can choose what they want. If this is a supermarket, *ubos na agad ang* P20,000 *na yan para sa aking sari-sari store*," Tatay Momoy says.

Richard's participation in the contest is his way of showing his gratitude to Tatay Momoy, who has given his children roots and wings. Roots to know where home is, and wings to fly to their individual destinies. For providing his children handy roots and wings, as handy as his old hammer, Tatay Momoy is one true handy daddy.







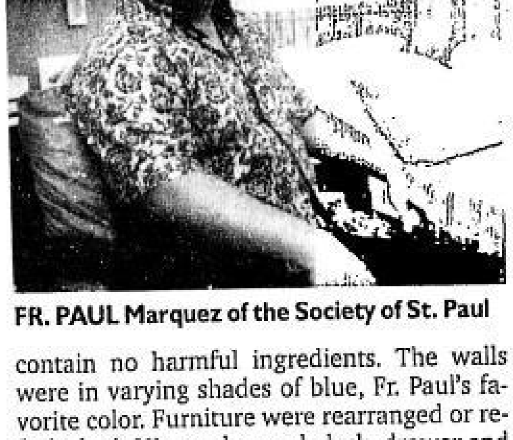


Priest's room gets a makeover

FR. PAUL MARQUEZ IS ONE of the priests of the Society of Saint Paul (SSP), a religious clerical congregation whose aim is to evangelize through social communications. As part of SSP's charism to use media as a channel to spread the Gospel, Fr. Paul's duty includes watching TV, linking up with the new media and keeping abreast with magazine trends.

That was how he chanced upon Real Living's makeover promo. Fr. Paul believes that anyone—priests included—deserves a restful refuge. So with the help of Real Living, Handyman and Robinsons Department Store (RDS), his spare room was "resurrected," given new life.

A calming cabana concept was perfect for this nature-lover of a priest. Paints and paint materials were provided by Handyman Do It Best Quality Paints—quick-drying paints that contain no harmful ingredients. The walls were in varying shades of blue, Fr. Paul's favorite color. Furniture were rearranged or refurbished. His mocha work desk, drawer and bed were stained and lined with bamboo strips to create a resort-like feel.



FR. PAUL Marquez of the Society of St. Paul

While RDS sponsored the striped beddings, copper curtains, candles, bathroom mat and other accessories, Handyman provided all the carpentry and electrical needs and even gifted Fr. Paul with a towel rack and a ceiling fan.

Two aspects stood out in Fr. Paul's new room: one, the customized wall-to-wall shelves, from Handyman, now the new home to his vast collection of books; and two, the bamboo-designed sliding peek-a-boo alcove which serves as a walk-in closet.

Although Fr. Paul admits to not being a DIY-er because of the countless obligations he has to fulfill, he likes buying what he needs at Handyman-Waltermart. He is grateful for good-hearted companies like Handyman and Robinsons Department Store that support his endeavors as a "priest for the people," and he wishes to see beyond this makeover opportunity.

"Because of this makeover, I can now rest and replenish my energies. In return, I get to inspire and help more people," he explains.

Visit the Do It Best Paint Solution Centers at Handyman Do It Center in Robinsons Place Pioneer, and select Handyman Do It Best Home Center branches in Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Ermita, and Festival Mall. These service stations offer free computerized paint mixing service for Do It Best Quality Paints. Visit www.handyman.com.ph.

PHOTOS BY TZEL SAMBILAY

A RELAXING cabana concept is perfect for this nature-lover of a priest.

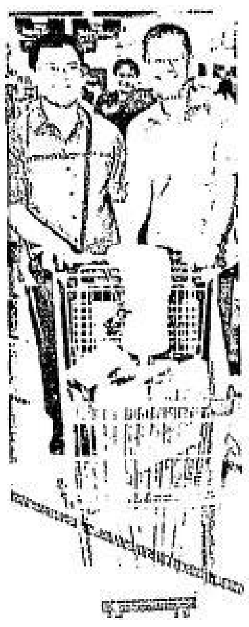
FR. ANSELM Manalastas holds a Makita sander, while his father, Cirilo Manalastas, inspects a Makita impact drill.

JANE Yuzon, Handyman's assistant manager for marketing, presents a Samsung digital camera from Robinsons Appliances to Cirilo and Fr. Anselm.

BON Consular, Handyman's store supervisor for operations, assists Cirilo and Fr. Anselm on their way to the counter.

The beauty in 'Tatay's' hands

Text by Alex Y. Vergara,
son of Vicente B. Vergara
Photos by Rudy Esperas



ONE happy pair

WHEN JOSE ELIAS MANalastas, better known to students and fellow priests of San Beda College (SBC) by his religious name Anselm Manalastas, OSB, first read about INQUIRER Lifestyle's search for "Handy Daddies," he knew right there and then that his father, Cirilo, was a virtual shoo-in.

Fr. Anselm, 33, was then in Baguio attending a religious seminar. Despite his busy schedule, he lost no time going back to his room and setting aside an hour or so to write down his thoughts about his "unstoppable" *tatay* (father).

"Every Sunday, after Mass, he usually gets hold of his tools and a few pieces of wood," he wrote in his one-page letter. "My [two] sisters and I marvel at his passion for making chairs, tables, beds [and] what-have-you."

Although Cirilo, 57, loves to joke about his passion for making furniture, it seems the man already has one eye set on his legacy. While some men build roads and bridges, the father of three is providing his family with classic and sturdy "museum" pieces that he hopes would last several generations.

"I'm not really sure whether that will really come to pass," Fr. Anselm further wrote. "I'm certain, however, that he is up to fulfilling that dream. Our house—which he himself built—is literally overflowing with his furniture."

While some men build roads and bridges, Fr. Anselm Manalastas' dad Cirilo is providing his family with classic and sturdy 'museum' pieces that he hopes would last several generations

Decorative touches

Over the years, Cirilo has been able to make two queen-size beds, three divans and three rocking chairs, one of which is a *butaka*. He does everything by his lonesome except for a number of decorative and functional touches, which he leaves to professionals.

"I'm lucky I have many friends who provide me with ideas as well as materials at wholesale prices," said Cirilo.

Since he now calls the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat in Manila his home, it took Fr. Anselm a while to get the chance to visit his family in Baliuag, Bulacan and take a picture of his smiling father while sitting on top of one of his many creations, a wood-stained coffee table made of rare and hardy *narra*.

"I had to personally deliver my entry to the INQUIRER office in Makati," said Fr. Anselm, who, apart from his priestly duties, is also the dean of SBC's faculty of arts and sciences. "I didn't want to take any chances. Mailing it would have been too risky."

FATHER and son leave the Handyman store at Robinsons Galleria with their purchases. Aside from the three power tools he bought, Cirilo still had enough money left to buy a stainless-steel utensil hook for his wife.

THE MANALASTASES check a Lotus press drill that was delivered to them all the way from Handyman Cainta.

Using *narra* and nothing but *narra* is also one of Cirilo's idiosyncrasies that his son lovingly mentioned in his letter. Fr. Anselm said it has given him a valuable life lesson.

"The amount of dedication I exert when I make a chair of ordinary wood will be the same as when I make one of *narra*," he quoted his father as having once said. "So why should I make one that's [made of] ordinary [materials]. I will do one made of *narra* instead. Class *pa, 'di ba*?"

"Excellence in his work is what I envy most about my *Tatay*," Fr. Anselm added.

The father's handiwork extends to his son's private quarters in San Beda, where a study table with built-in drawers and a rocking chair with woven *solihiya* for its seat and backrest occupy places of honor.

The old man made the study table as a birthday gift to his son two years ago. Of course, like Cirilo's other pieces, these items are made of *narra*.

"I excitedly brought the table to the monastery and placed my laptop on it," Fr. Anselm wrote. "It looked adorable!"

Meanwhile, a carved pedestal Cirilo also made for his son has found its way to his office. The stand now features the statue of St. Anselm, the priest's heavenly patron and namesake.

"The rocking chair is really special," said Fr. Anselm. "*Tatay* gave it to me as a gift when I became dean. I feel really proud of him whenever someone asks me where I get my furniture."

No idea

Cirilo, a property custodian for a real-estate company, had no idea what his son was up to until the priest called him up the night before the P20,000-shopping spree at Handyman to inform him that he won the contest. Father and son met up the next day at the abbey and proceeded to Robinsons Galleria.

Apart from making his father happy, Fr. Anselm confessed that it was also his way of "ridding himself of the guilt" an absentee son like him occasionally experiences. Since he also studied high school in Manila, he has been away from home since he was 13.

"That was why I was more than happy to give in to his request while I was in LA last year," he said. "I had to go to one of those huge hardware depots to get him a router."

During their quality time together at Handyman, Fr. Anselm, who knew next to nothing about carpentry, quietly followed his *Tatay* as he made his way to the store's power tools section.

Before the hour was over, Cirilo was able to buy himself a Makita impact drill, Makita sander and Lotus press drill. He also received a Samsung digital camera from Robinsons Appliances.

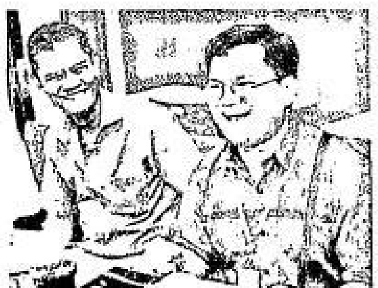
"I've always wanted to buy these expensive tools for my workshop," said a smiling Cirilo. "I already have an impact drill, but it's quite old. In case it conks out, I now have a replacement."

Indeed, if there's one thing Fr. Anselm regrets, apart from not spending more time with his family, it's his failure to inherit his father's knack for doing things, "for making *butingting* (tinkering)."

"I'm not good at handling tools the way he does," he concluded in his letter. "Perhaps, my role is to just sit down and admire his creations, to lie down idly on our nice divan, to sleep soundly on the comfortable bed that *Tatay* made.

"Perhaps, my role is to appreciate such beauty in his works and see the God of beauty in them. That's a lesson we priests tell our congregation: that we can behold the beauty of God in the works of our hands, [in my case] in the works of my *Tatay's* hands!"

CHECKING out the merchandise.



FATHER and son share a lunch of *siomai*, pasta, fried chicken and pizza at Uncle John's Robinsons Galleria branch.

FATHER Anselm pays for his *tatay*'s purchases using gift certificates provided by Robinsons.

For the man of the house

MAKE FATHER'S DAY EXTRA special for Dad with great gift selections from Fuller Life Direct Selling Philippines Inc. (formerly Sara Lee Direct Selling Philippines Inc.), one of the world's top distributors of globally renowned brands.

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Fuller Life also offers great gift sets for Dad: H for Men Gift Set, which includes boxer shorts and body spray; and the Savvy Gift Set, which comes with a wallet and a key chain.

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Dockers San Francisco stores are in Power Plant Mall, Rockwell; Glorietta 3, Makati; Robinsons Place-Ermita; Robinsons Galleria Mall, Ortigas; Alabang Town Center, Muntinlupa; Festival Mall, Filinvest Alabang; and Trinoma, QC.

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To preserve the inherent beauty of Ayala Greenfield Estates' terrain, the holes in its 18-hole, par 72, all-weather championship golf course are laid out on slopes and cliffs. Gullies and waterways become both visual interest and physical challenge in a golf game. The course is designed by Robert Trent Jones II, the father of environmental golf course design.

The 15-hectare Nature Park of Ayala Greenfield Estates is right beside The Woodland Trails. This space can be used for picnics, camping, fishing, biking, and kite-flying. More hiking paths meander from the park into the heavily forested lanes of The Woodland Trails, making it an ideal place for long, meditative walks.

Only 20 minutes from Alabang, and 2 minutes from the South Luzon Expressway Exit, Ayala Greenfield Estates sits on the slopes of Calamba, Laguna. With its highest point at 315 meters above sea level, Ayala Greenfield Estates has a cool climate almost like Tagaytay, its elevation affording residents 360-degree views of nature.

Ayala Greenfield Estates is a 350-hectare residential and golf development in Calamba, Laguna. Its elevated location provides views of Mount Makiling, Laguna de Bay, and Tagaytay Ridge. Amidst this resplendent natural environment, world-class recreational facilities bestow Ayala Greenfield with a country club lifestyle that its residents are able to enjoy every single day.

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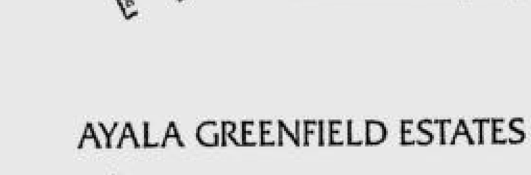
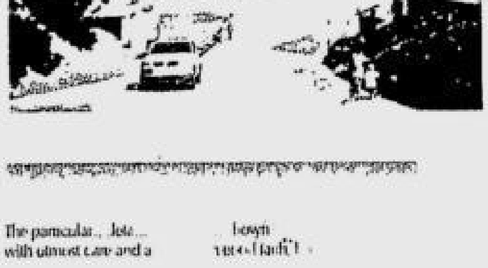
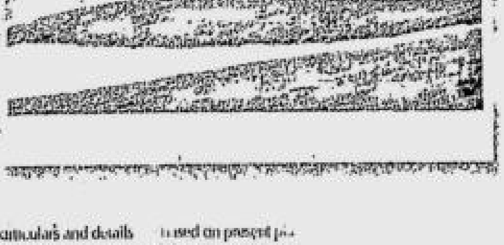


Take the Batangas exit from the South Luzon Expressway





AYALA GREENFIELD ESTATES

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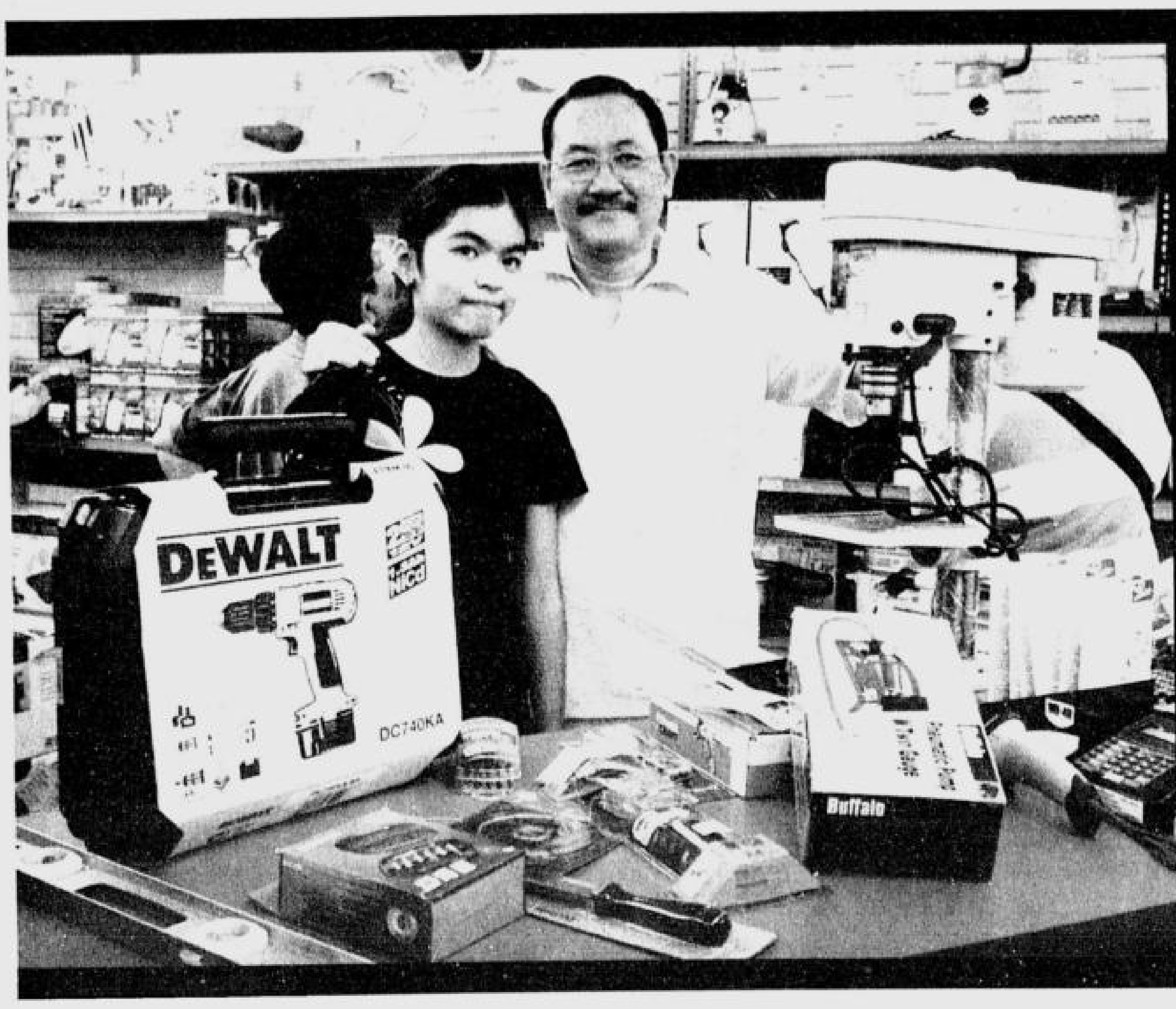


POWER BOOTY. Gerry Feliciano and daughter Geraldine with dad's new gadgets, courtesy of Handyman Robinsons Galleria

Dad-of-all-trades

Text by Gibbs Cadiz,
son of Jose J. Cadiz
Photos by Rodel Rotoni

> 'He fixes our plumbing, electrical and air conditioning systems, and he also does a lot of carpentry work and the maintenance of the car,' says 13-year-old Geraldine of his dad Gerardo

AN HOUR OR SO before the lunch at Uncle John's, organized for the winning fathers of INQUIRER Lifestyle's "Handy Daddy" contest for Father's Day, Gerardo Feliciano was already in Handyman Robinsons Galleria, checking out the items he planned to buy with his shopping prize of P20,000 in gift checks.

A retired civil engineer, Feliciano, 56, has always been thorough and methodical in his work, and this day was no different, despite the excitement of winning his dream shopping spree.

"*Sa bahay, halos kumpleto na ako sa gamit, pero madami pa rin ako gustong bilhin,*" he says. Hence the advance trip to the hardware shop, where he made advance reservations on a drill press, before lunch with the other three winning fathers and their kids.

Feliciano's name was submitted to the contest by his 13-year-old daughter, Geraldine, who wrote in her essay, "My dad is an extraordinary DIY man."

And why not? Her father, after all, is a jack-of-all-trades in the house.

"*Lahat sa bahay*—electrical, repairs, plumbing, painting—*ako gumagawa,*" says Feliciano. "With all my tools, *kaya ko nang gawin lahat*. Almost all our appliances, *ako din gumawa*. Even the car, *ako ang nagme*-maintain. *Kung ang iba mahilig sa* sports, *ako*, I like creating stuff. *Ito, pagkatapos ng pagod, may* value. It lingers."

"I get so much satisfaction from creating something, from the fact that *ikaw ang may gawa,*" he adds. "In fact, one of the reasons I retired early is I want to be able to do the things I want to do. If I retire at a late age, *baka 'di ko na magamit ang mga kamay ko.* Plus, in practical terms, *napakalaki din ng natitipid namin. 'Pag me nasisira sa bahay, ako na lang ang bahala.*"

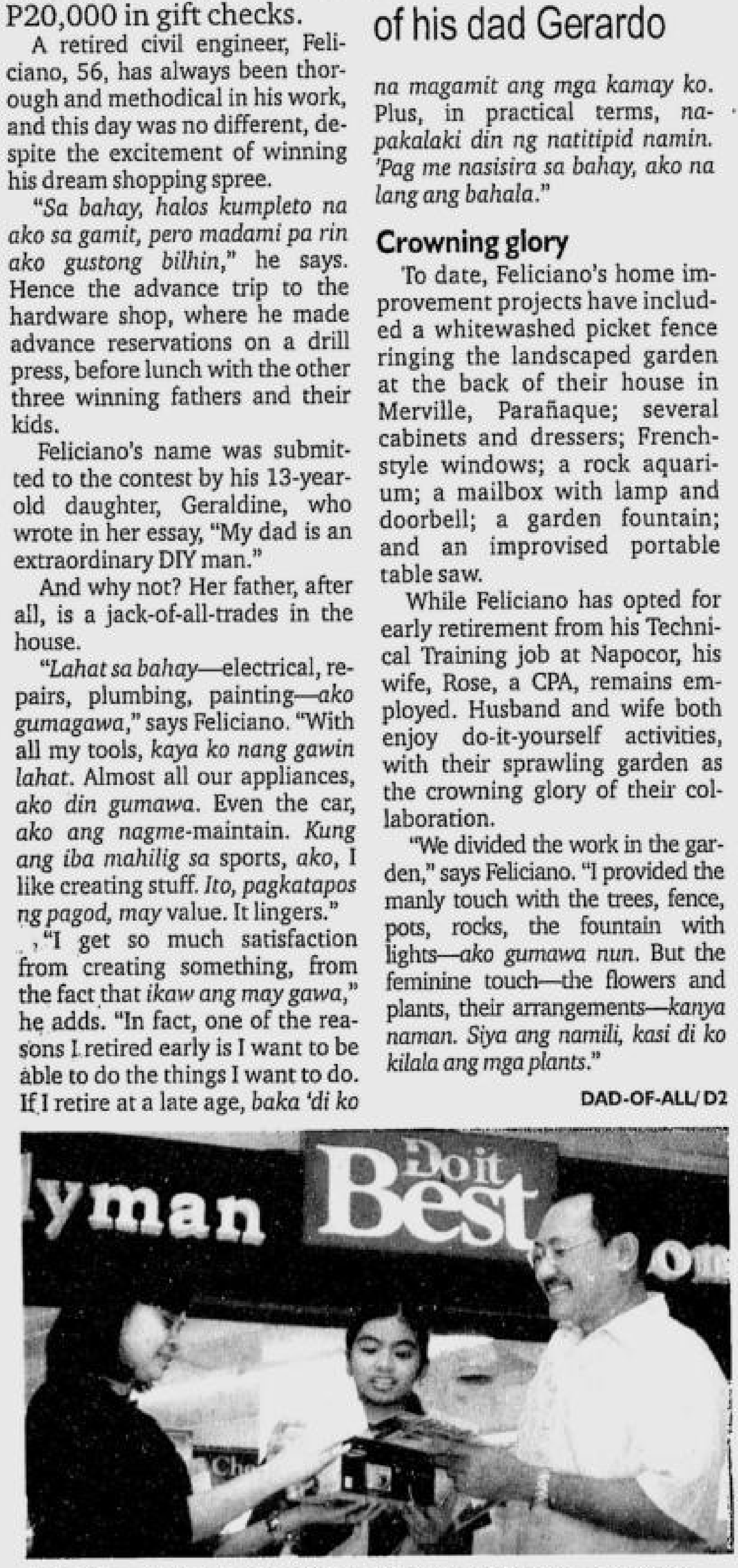
Crowning glory

To date, Feliciano's home improvement projects have included a whitewashed picket fence ringing the landscaped garden at the back of their house in Merville, Parañaque; several cabinets and dressers; French-style windows; a rock aquarium; a mailbox with lamp and doorbell; a garden fountain; and an improvised portable table saw.

While Feliciano has opted for early retirement from his Technical Training job at Napocor, his wife, Rose, a CPA, remains employed. Husband and wife both enjoy do-it-yourself activities, with their sprawling garden as the crowning glory of their collaboration.

"We divided the work in the garden," says Feliciano. "I provided the manly touch with the trees, fence, pots, rocks, the fountain with lights—*ako gumawa nun*. But the feminine touch—the flowers and plants, their arrangements—*kanya naman. Siya ang namili, kasi di ko kilala ang mga plants.*"

DAD-OF-ALL/ D2



FATHER and daughter receive their Samsung digital camera from Jane Yuzon, Assistant Manager for Marketing Services of Handyman.

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DR. ABRAHAM Pascual (center) and wife Sylvia with children (from left) Jose Miguel, Anna Maria Lourdes, Anna Margarita and Jose Augusto

Isosceles and Leonora Pascual, founders of Pascual Laboratories

ABRAHAM and wife Sylvia believe that, with the right foundation, children will make the right choices .

Leading by example

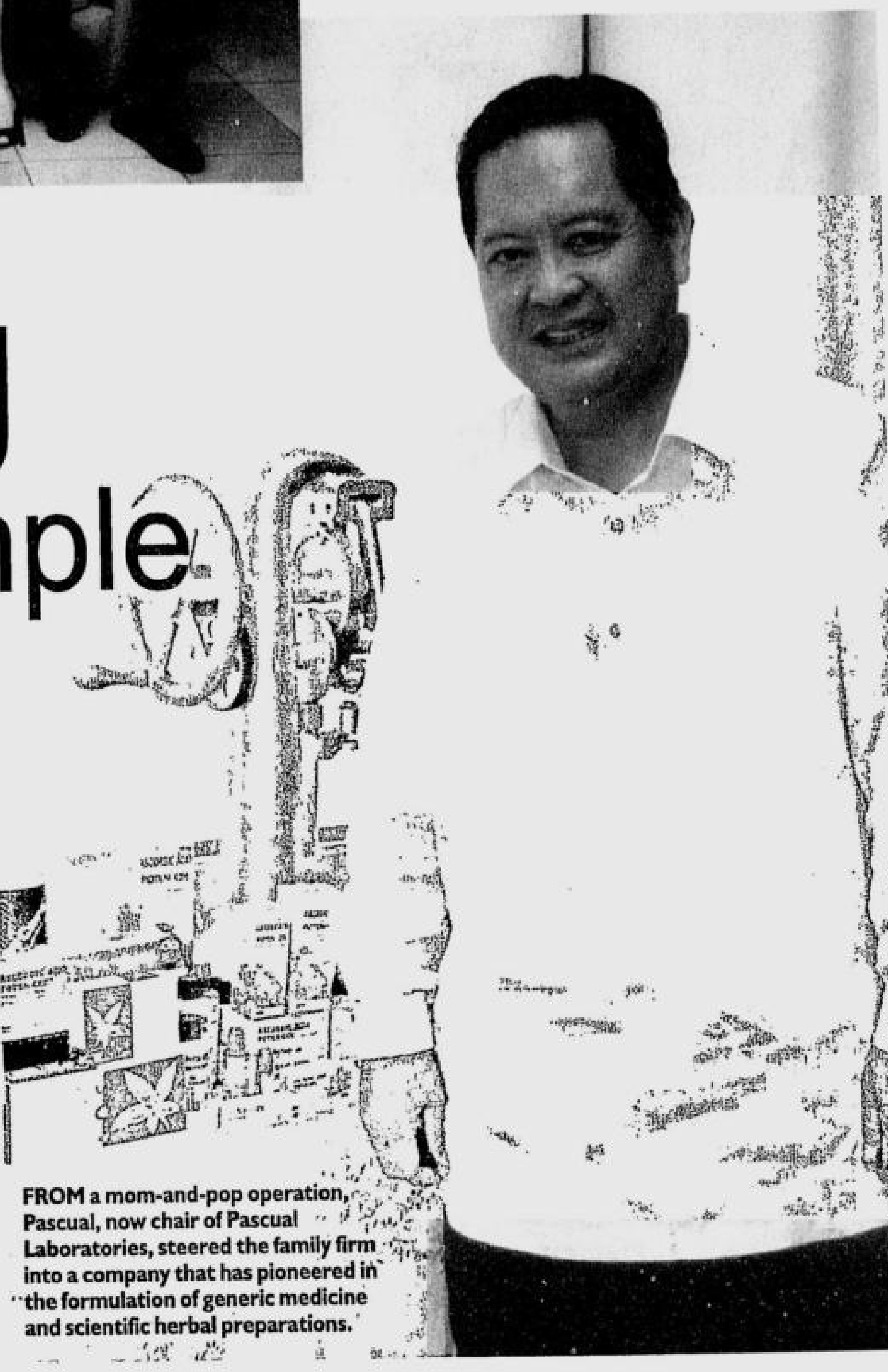
No matter how hard you teach your children values, if you yourself do not practice them, the lessons will not be learned

By Linda B. Bolido,
daughter of Ricardo Bolido

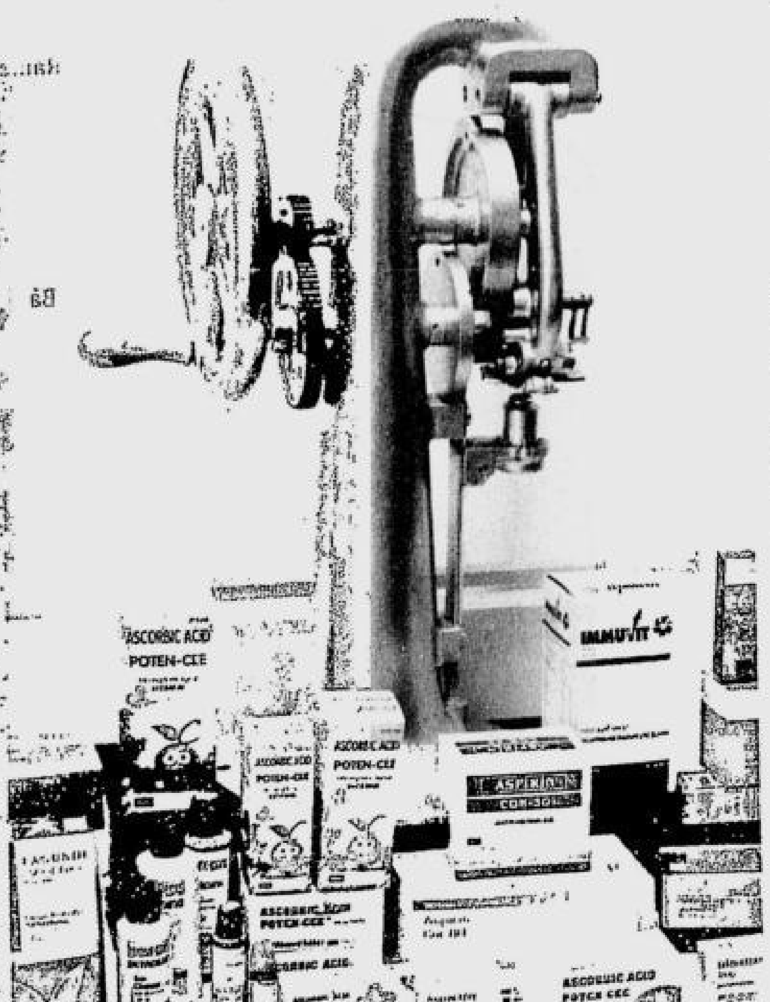
ABRAHAM PASCUAL, PHD, may or may not be a big fan of Sting but he sure subscribes to the sentiment of one of the singer's big hits: "If You Love Somebody Set Them Free."

That is exactly what Pascual has done with his five children. The chair of the Filipino pharmaceutical firm Pascual Laboratories, a pioneer in the production of generic drugs and scientifically developed herbal formulations, would have wanted, of course, for his children to join the family firm.

But while he did not make his wish a secret, he was also not one to tell them what they should do. It is a lesson he learned from his own parents.



FROM a mom-and-pop operation, Pascual, now chair of Pascual Laboratories, steered the family firm into a company that has pioneered in the formulation of generic medicine and scientific herbal preparations.



SOME of Pascual Laboratories' bestsellers and a vintage drug-making equipment

"My siblings and I were allowed to do what we wanted to do," he said.

In the end, the youngest of five children found that the family business, started by his chemist parents from a P1,000 loan from a relative, was where he wanted to be.

In fact, he said, the preparation to take over the reins from his parents by specializing in pharmaceutical chemistry was something he actually enjoyed. It was a choice he made voluntarily and quite happily, too.

"It was a blessing that I enjoyed doing (what I had to). I never thought of doing anything else being an obedient child," he said.

Being what they want

And so, just as his parents let him be what he wanted to be, Pascual has also allowed—even encouraged—his own five children to follow their hearts and pursue whatever interested them.

Some of them did—for a while. Daughter Anna Maria Lourdes, Mia to the family, tried her hand at teaching for a few years. Now director for design sources and communication at Pascual, Mia said, though she liked working with children, she felt the call of the "family." She is not referring only to her immediate family but the company itself.

Mia said, "Working at Pascual Laboratories is really like being in a family." She said she and her siblings grew up involved in it, earning extra cash to augment their allowances, especially when they were studying abroad, by doing odd jobs during school breaks.

She said she now felt a little embarrassed when older employees, who she had known from when she was a kid, would call her "Ma'am."

Anna Margarita or Maui, now consultant for exports and president of Health Express, a Pascual subsidiary, worked with financial institutions in New York for a while. But, like Mia, she eventually found that home was where her heart was.

Jose Augusto, Jappy for short, could also have stayed on and worked in the United States after his studies. But, unlike his sisters, Jappy, who is married to television personality Lyn Ching, decided early on he wanted to be part of the family business. He is now vice president for supply chain management.

A third daughter, Crissy, is still in New York, seemingly happy to do something outside the family business. Whether or not she decides to be part of Pascual would be completely up to her, according to her father, as long as she is happy with her decision.

The "baby" of the family, Jose Miguel or Mikey, was initially advised by his father to find work outside the company to gain experience. But Pascual *pere* said jobs must have been hard to come by then, so after Mikey had been idle for a few months, he decided to bring him into the company as a sales representative.

Mikey did not mind starting modestly. He enjoyed the friendly competition he had with sales reps of other drug firms. Eventually, his father put him in the company's information technology department, work for which he trained in school.

Mikey said, as far as he was concerned, he was just another employee. When colleagues called him "Sir Mike," no doubt in deference to his family name, he said he would also address them "Sir" to stress the point that they were all simply employees of the company.

Bigger company

It helped, of course, that by the time the children were ready to take their places in the company, Pascual Laboratories was no longer the Mom & Pop operation couple Isosceles and Leonora set up in 1946.

It has withstood the entry of multinationals and has become a leader in the generic drug production. Collaborating with the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development, it is also behind the growing public acceptance of scientific formulations from Filipino herbs like Ascof from *lagundi* and Releaf from *sambong*.

Pascual is obviously happy that his children have returned to the "fold." His child-rearing principle is simple, something he inherited from his parents—to teach children to do things the right way and to show them how by example.

He said what he and his wife tried to do was give their children a strong moral foundation.

"Our responsibility as parents is to teach them the right values," he said. But he also realized that the lessons would not be learned if what they did was not in sync with what they taught.

"If you teach (them values) but do something different (they would not take those lessons to heart). You have to lead by example."

Pascual and his wife Sylvia, both devout Catholics, stressed to their children, "Whatever you do, make it God-centered."

But he said the lesson was not imposed. "You can only do so much for your children." In fact, he said, though he would be extremely sad and disappointed if one of them suddenly decided to embrace another faith, he would not object. "I can't take them all to heaven."

To which daughter Mia added, "We have to find our own way there."

But Pascual believes that if children have a good relationship with their parents, they will want to do something to please them and that includes joining the family business.

Sting only says "If you love somebody set them free" but it is also said love will make them return to you. And that, it seems, is how it is with the Pascuals.

Father's Day gem

FOR the modern father, Hans Brumann uses 18k yellow and white gold and the ebony shade of kamagong.

FOR FATHER'S DAY, HANS Brumann highlights the exciting gemstone called tanzanite—discovered in the foothills of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania in 1967 and introduced to the world by Tiffany's of New York.

It is 1,000 times rarer than diamonds, and is not expected to last for only one generation, making it a true heirloom piece to be passed from generation to generation.

Henry B. Platt, former president and chairman of Tiffany's and great grandson of Louis Comfort Tiffany, said that tanzanite was undoubtedly "the most beautiful blue stone to be discovered in over 200 years."

In 1968 Tiffany's initiated the first tanzanite advertising campaign which celebrated tanzanite as the precious gem to be found in only two places in the world, Tanzania and Tiffany's.

In 2002, the American Gem Trade Association selected tanzanite as the December birthstone, adding it to a list of birthstones.

In 2005, "Be Born to Tanzanite" was launched, delivering the message that tanzanite is the universal birthstone.

For the modern father, Hans Brumann uses lustrous 18k yellow and white gold and the deep ebony shade of *kamagong* to bring out the tanzanite's trichroic color radiating blue, violet and burgundy in its natural form.

IN 2005, "Be Born to Tanzanite" was launched, delivering the message that tanzanite is the universal birthstone.

EMILY'S POST
Emily Marcelo

Will his wife let him move on?

DEAR EMILY,

I've been an OFW here in the Middle East for over six years now. I broke up with my wife just two years after our marriage after I discovered she was being unfaithful to me and spending my hard-earned money with her paramour.

I was the last one to know. We have one child. I just stopped sending money to her.

She filed a number of court cases against me—all of which were dismissed but they cost me a lot of money.

I want to go on with my life and spend it with another woman till we grow old. But my first marriage has not been annulled and, despite my problems, I am still legally married.

I'm also in danger of losing my professional license if my wife learns that I am living with another woman. She will definitely go to court or the Professional Regulatory Commission again.

I have a stable job in Saudi working in a prominent oil exploration company.

What shall I do? Preserve my professional license and stay as I am or shall I gamble by living with another woman and lose my professional license and my overseas job as well?

—AF

You, I am assuming, are an engineer and common sense tells me that you don't have to get on a high horse to design bridges or dig for oil. Isn't that more the predilection of lawyers and public officials?

Nevertheless, our legal consultant suggests that you find out if that country in the Middle East conducts its own licensure examination for your profession. If so, make sure to take it ASAP.

This will be your protection in the event that your wife succeeds in creating trouble for you in your profession.

However, the slow and tedious judicial process here could be on your side, so relax momentarily and take solace in the fact that this will not happen tomorrow or next week or next month—yet.

It will not be as easy for your wife to turn your life upside down, the way she easily took a paramour in the first two years you were slaving abroad!

Besides, should there be court hearings, they will allow you to air your wife's dirty laundry as she does the same to yours. What's funny is, won't that be a case of the pan calling the kettle black?

If her adultery is true, then her nerve should be commended! There's no denying how some people can develop the sensitivity of elephant hide for greed!

In the meantime, live your life, do what you think is good for you, and watch your back. Money is "written" all over you and as such, you won't be let go that easily by this "vulture" if she can manage it.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. *Listen to Ms. Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.*

GERALDINE and Gerry Feliciano enjoying lunch at Uncle John's

Dad-of-all-trades

From page D1

"*Ang ibang mag-asawa, ayaw mag*-retire *dahil daw walang gagawin*," he adds. "*Kami ng misis ko, iba. Alam na namin ang gagawin namin* because we have so many hobbies. We will not run out of things to do together."

Their resourcefulness and sense of self-reliance have rubbed off on the Feliciano couple's two kids, Geraldine and Gerald, 17. Geraldine, in particular, has taken after her father in terms of her eagerness to learn to create things on her own.

"*Tinatanong niya lahat ng binibili ko*, even the spark plugs and motor oil," says her dad. "'Daddy, *para sa ano 'yan?*' she would say. *Gusto niya siya ang gagawa*, like, she redesigned her own room and she made her own cup holder. *Mahilig din sa butingting*."

That should explain why Geraldine thought her dad was a shoo-in for the DIY Contest.

"I knew he wanted to get more tools, *so isinali ko siya para makakuha siya ng mga bagong gamit*," she says.

Gleaming gadgets

At the end of their shopping spree, father and daughter had amassed a cartful of gleaming gadgets: the drill press that Feliciano had coveted for quite some time, a pneumatic pump with twin gauge, a spray paint gun, a Black & Decker battery-operated wrench, a Dewalt cordless drill ("good brand," says Feliciano happily), a diamond wheel for grinding and cutting through concrete, a carpenter's level, eyelet pliers, and router bits with blades.

Final tab? P20,005. Feliciano shouldered the five-peso balance.

The winning fathers also received a free Samsung digital camera from Robinsons Appliances.

With his brand-new power tools, Feliciano already has new projects in mind for his family.

"This diamond wheel, I'm going to use this to cut through a wall in the house *para maipasok ko ang* cabinet, *parang* recessed storage, so we'd save on space," he says. He also plans to extend the covered patio, build a trellis in the garden and construct additional storage rooms.

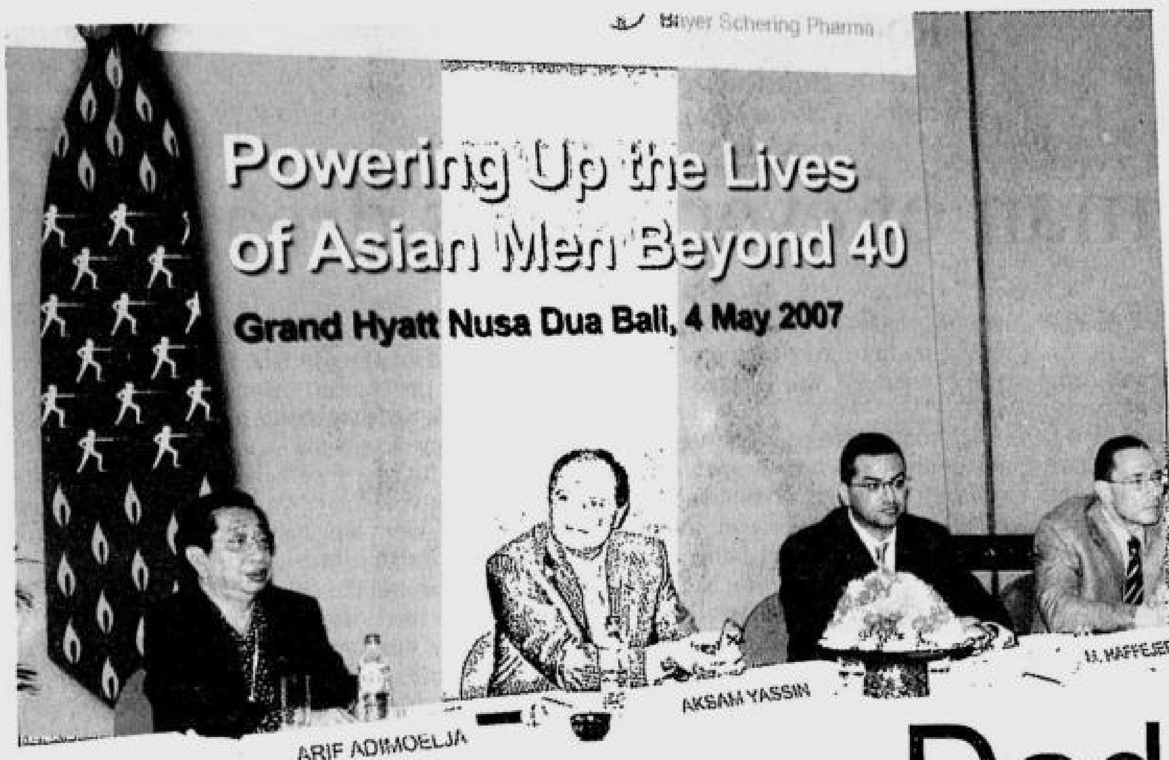
"A day before coming here, nag-search na *ako sa* Internet," says Feliciano, laughing. "I've run this through my mind—*ano ba ang mga gusto kong bilhin na 'di ko pa mabili* because of the cost. Almost all of these na-imagine *ko na!*"

Such fascination for hardware has been with Feliciano since childhood.

"Elementary *pa lang ako mahilig na ako sa gamit*," he recalls. "*Marami na akong nasira*. When I see something, I'd say, 'how does it work?' *Kakalasin ko 'yan, at di ko na maibabalik*. That's how I learned."

It's a passion he's passed on to his kids with great pride. Just ask Geraldine, who took a day off from school to accompany her dad to Handyman. It was her way of reiterating what she had proclaimed in her essay: "I consider my dad the best DIY dad in the whole world!"

E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph, visit www.gibbscadiz.com



Bayer Schering Pharma
Powering Up the Lives of Asian Men Beyond 40
Grand Hyatt Nusa Dua Bali, 4 May 2007
ARIF ADIMOELJA
AKSAM YASSIN
M. HAFFEJEE

THE DOCTORS ARE IN. Arif Adimoelja, Aksam Yassin, Mohamed Haffejee and Farid Saad briefing the media in Bali, Indonesia

Men in midlife decline may find new hope in testosterone replacement therapy

Daddy reloaded

By Gibbs Cadiz

IT'S MENOPAUSE FOR WOMEN, andropause for men. Correct?

Not quite. While menopause is a medically accepted term for that period of transition in a woman's life when her childbearing years end, with the passage accompanied by a host of symptoms ranging from night sweats and mood swings to fatigue and outright depression, the equivalent condition in middle-aged men is only loosely called andropause.

There is no formal definition yet for andropause, and what it refers to have not been mapped out as extensively as its female counterpart. The medical term usually employed for the array of physical, sexual and emotional changes that occur in men aged 40 and above is a longer, more complicated phrase: testosterone deficiency syndrome (TDS).

CHEWING GUM
MONTHLY

Men suffer a decline in testosterone levels as they advance in years, with the drop estimated at 1.2 percent per year starting at 40. Normal testosterone levels are pegged at a range between 12 nmol/L and 40 nmol/L. Anyone having blood testosterone levels below 12 is regarded as having low testosterone. With the progressive drop in hormonal levels each year, a 70-year-old man would have lost some 35 percent of his originally active testosterone.

Most important hormone

Testosterone happens to be the most important male hormone. Or, as Aksam Yassin, consultant urologist from the Hospital Segeberger Kliniken in Hamburg, Germany, put it, "it's what makes a man 'a man.'"

Research has shown that testosterone loss in middle-aged men accounts for symptoms such as fatigue, poor concentration, increased body fats, reduced muscle mass and strength, depression, loss of sexual desire and functions. It may even be contributory to erectile dysfunction (ED), because one in five men who suffer from erectile dysfunction is known to have low testosterone levels.

When a person is said to be, in local parlance, *"nagkaka-edad na,"* his family and the world around him make allowances for his increasing forgetfulness, slowness of movement, physical aches and pains, occasional crankiness.

What TDS amounts to is a decline in the general quality of life of a man, which can affect his self-esteem and relationships with loved ones. In severe cases, TDS can even lead to serious medical conditions like severe depression, anemia and osteoporosis.

Similar treatment

Women who go through menopause have the benefit of hormone replacement therapy to help them ride the tide of physical and emotional changes they go through. Men, because they tend to be more tight-lipped, even ignorant, about their own life passage, and because many consider it unmanly to be obsessing over themselves needlessly, may not know that a similar form of treatment is available for them.

Of course, with the introduction of Viagra (generic name Sildenafil, from Pfizer), Levitra (Vardenafil, from Bayer Schering Pharma) and other oral medications for erectile dysfunction, men now have a handy remedy for this vexing problem.

However, TDS is more than just ED. The action of ED pills is limited only to the promotion of smooth muscle relaxation to aid in erection; it has no effect on libido itself. The presence of libido in a man can be traced to his testosterone levels. Thus, general sexual satisfaction has more to do with testosterone than ED pills, which can only complement the former.

This is where testosterone replacement therapy comes in. Like its female counterpart, which seeks to stabilize women in their post-menopausal stage with programmed hormonal shots, this therapy is meant to relieve men of symptoms associated with low testosterone levels.

Testosterone replacement has been shown to restore the physical, mental and sexual vitality of its subjects, with improved sexual functions, positive effects on moods and emotional states, reduced fatigue, increased muscle mass and lower body fats. All these translate to greater self-confidence and a feeling of well-being in a man transitioning to his midlife years.

Injectable therapy

Bayer Schering Pharma has developed an injectable testosterone replacement therapy treatment that, as its literature claims, "allows natural testosterone levels to return to normal, thus relieving the symptoms of TDS." The treatment is now available in 20 countries worldwide, including the Philippines.

The therapy requires only four doses per year, with each dose ensuring that testosterone levels in the blood are within the normal range for three months. This long-lasting treatment, said to be the world's first, allows its subjects to live their daily lives with greater freedom and independence, since they only need to get their doses four times a year.

"Testosterone is a natural substance in the body, so all we do is replace it. There is nothing foreign to the body," assured Dr. Arif Adimoelja, head of the Andrology Clinic at the Naval Hospital/Dr. Ramelan School of Medicine of Hang Tuah University, Surabaya, Indonesia.

Adimoelja spoke at a media briefing organized by Bayer Schering Pharma in conjunction with the 4th Congress of the Asia Pacific Society for the Study of the Aging Male held recently in Bali, Indonesia. He was joined in the panel by Aksam, plus Dr. Mohamed Haffejee, consultant urologist and member of the Health Professionals Council of South Africa, and Dr. Farid Saad, head of Global Scientific Affairs, Men's Healthcare, Bayer Schering Pharma.

Haffejee cautioned against any inflated expectations of the treatment: "We're not creating Schwarzenegger or Rambo here; we're treating a deficiency so people can have a better quality of life."

Some side effects he cited are hair loss, occasional dizziness, and discomfort with injections on the back side. But, overall, he assured, the treatment is safe, effective and convenient.

Testosterone replacement therapy must be administered by a doctor, who must first assess whether a patient has TDS and other medical problems. A 2005 European Eurology paper said the therapy is disallowed "in men suspected of having carcinoma of the prostate or breast [and those] with untreated sleep apnea, severe heart failure" and prostate problems, among others.

Are you 40-plus years old and beginning to feel the weight of the years? Time to visit the doctor for some possible rejuvenation.

E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph, visit www.gibbscadiz.com

New line for men

DESIGNER BOYET FAJARDO IS releasing a men's line, Boyet Fajardo For Men.

The new line features classy and comfortable corporate wear for men made of the same high-quality imported materials he uses in his women's line.

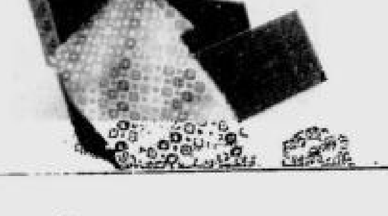
It consists of suits, blazers, jackets and neckties made from 100-percent Thai silk and comes in a box covered of the same fabric.

The suits, jackets and blazers are meant to give the wearer utmost comfort even during a busy and stressful day.

Boyet Fajardo For Men offers a wide range of options, from classic cuts in plain colors to trendy designs with monochromatic pinstripes.

The Boyet Fajardo For Men collection will be available at Robinsons Place Ermita and Robinsons Galleria soon.

NECKTIES made from 100-percent Thai silk



BOYET Fajardo for Men offers comfortable corporate wear.

ROOTS AND WINGS

Cathy Babao-Guballa,
daughter of Vicente Miguel L. Babao

Dad, the man of every girl's dream

HE WAS THE STANDARD AGAINST WHOM all other men were measured.

Father's Day always gets me a little sentimental for the plain and simple reason that I had my father for only a short while. Dad died in 1981, a year short of his 50th birthday, gone in an instant from a fatal first heart attack. It was my 16th summer and all of a sudden I felt like I was 16 going on 26.

Dad was my first male role model and because I was his princess, he meant the world to me. To lose him at a crucial point in my development had repercussions that reverberated for many, many years, but that is another story. The point I am making is that a father plays a very unique and important role in his daughter's life. A father's involvement is crucial in a daughter's self-perception and the manner by which she views the world. How he makes her feel and how he behaves towards her have a long-lasting impact on her future relationships and in the type of men she will eventually get involved with.

A Yahoo! news report last week revealed a recent study about how women who got along well with their dads as children were attracted to men who resembled their fathers, whereas women who had a bad father-daughter relationship did not. The article had me eyeing my husband that night and yes, I had to admit, there were some similarities there—at least with the nose.

Lasting influence

The study was conducted by Lynda Boothroyd, a psychologist at Durham University in England, and her colleagues at the University of Wroclaw and the Institute of Anthropology in Poland. Although no one yet knows for sure why females show these preferences, a woman with a great dad may choose a similar-looking mate in the hopes that he will also be a good father, the researchers wrote.

A father's long-lasting influence over his daughter definitely goes way beyond the physical choice of a future mate, and the father-daughter bond is one that can be developed from the earliest developmental stage.

One of my most vivid memories from my childhood is how my father would sit me on his lap on Saturday afternoons and together we would listen to records (I'm betraying my age here!) of Danny Kaye reading Aesop's Fables. We would listen and he would point the words out to me in a book.

VINTAGE POP. Author and her dad, circa 1966

A recent study reveals that women who got along well with their dads as children are attracted to men who resemble their fathers

When I became a little older, Saturday afternoons would be spent at the bookstore where at the age of eight, he introduced me to the wonderful world of Nancy Drew.

During my teenage years he became quite protective, shuttling me to and from parties complete with a *yaya*-chaperone.

When I was an adolescent he would make sure that he knew what I was up to and where I was and would give me snippets here and there about what a "decent" boy should be.

Though my dad left me very early, because he was very much involved in my life, he left me with a great legacy—the value of education, integrity, spirituality (he introduced me to the Serenity prayer) and more important, he left me with many memories that I carry with me to this very day.

What can fathers do to help establish strong daddy-daughter bonds? If you are a dad reading this, please listen up. If you are a mom, I hope you pass this on to your daughter's father. Here are a few suggestions:

- Listen. When your daughter has your undivided attention it makes her feel valued and important. As a dad, focus on what your daughter thinks, feels, believes in, rather than on the way she looks. By valuing your daughter, you help increase her self-worth.
- Get involved and be aware of your daughter's activities in and out of school. Watch the films and TV shows your daughter watches. Listen to her music. There is so much of music today that is reminiscent of the music of '70s and the '80s which makes for great conversation between you and your teener. Be active in her school as much as you can. Make your daughter a priority.
- Encourage her abilities and dreams. In this area, be gender sensitive. Talk about activities and careers that will maximize her interests and talents. Today's young women are becoming more empowered and at par with their male counterparts. Help your daughter believe that there are no "just for boys" activities or academic subjects wherein only the boys excel.
- Celebrate her uniqueness. A daughter needs to know that her father loves her for who she is and sees her as a whole person who is capable of reaching the stars. When choosing a life partner, your daughter will most likely choose someone who behaves like you and has your values so if you want your daughter to have a partner who treats her well, make sure that you treat her with respect. Help her to see that she should measure her growth and self-development by her own standards and not by those set by her peers or by media.
- Help her get physical. Studies have shown that girls who are involved in sports have more focus and discipline when it comes to academics and that physically active girls are less likely to get pregnant, drop out of school, or put up with abuse. Physical activity builds a girl's strength, resilience, determination and confidence. Another study has shown the important influence of a father's involvement in determining excellence in sports. Think Akiko Thompson. You may just have a budding world-class athlete on your hands so invest your time and pay attention.
- Involve your daughter in your life. Take time out for your daughter each week or at the very least once a month, so that you can show and share your interests with her too. Take her out to lunch or dinner and share your life with her. Growing up I would spend hours and hours in golf clubs and pro-shops so that by the age of six, I knew who Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer were. Today, one of my favorite things to do is appreciate the beauty of a fabulous golf course whenever we have the chance to travel.
- Learn from other fathers and role model respect for the women in general. Read books on raising your daughter well such as Joe Kelly's "Dads and Daughters: How to Inspire, Understand and Support Your Daughter When She's Growing Up So Fast." Visit websites such as www.dadsanddaughters.org to read about studies and reports on how you can make the world a better and safer place for your daughter. Your daughter watches and listens to your every word so be careful not to send the wrong signals. Always be conscious of treating women (foremost would be your child's mother) with the highest respect and consideration.

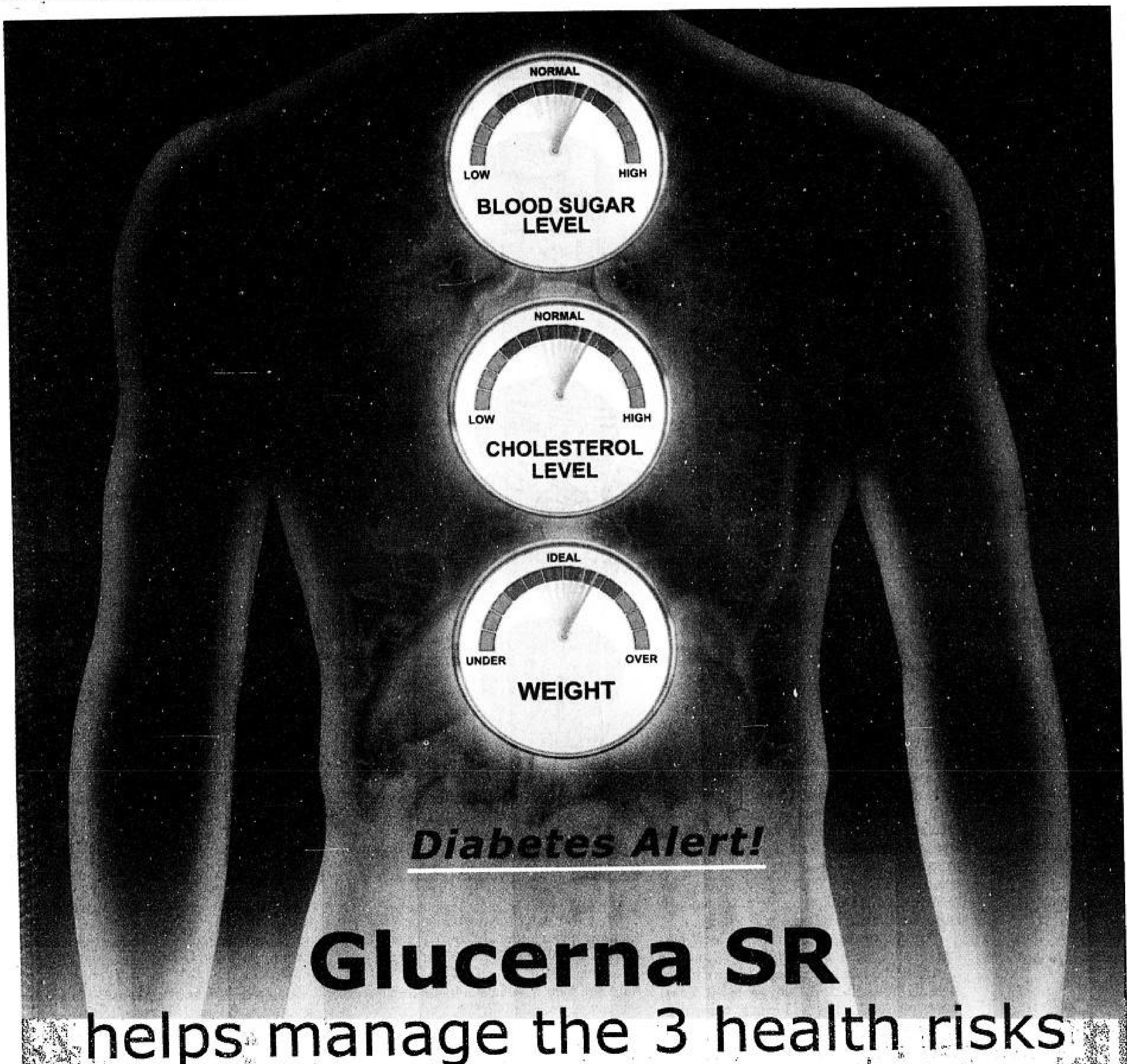
Mom at the movies

I had a wonderful time watching "Fantastic Four Rise of the Silver Surfer" (Rated G) last week. And speaking of empowered daughters, Jessica Alba, who portrays the character Sue Storm, role-models in the film (okay, I know she's a superhero) what it means to be a woman with her own mind, someone who can be both strong and soft at the same time.

The film has awesome special effects and the lesson on how life is made up of choices which permeates throughout the movie will make for interesting family discussion afterwards about values and how the decisions we make affect not only our lives, but those of others as well.

Happy Father's Day to all the dads, but most especially to my husband and parenting partner, Hector, who helps bring order and stability into the sometimes chaotic but nevertheless fun world of parenthood!

E-mail the author at cathybabao@gmail.com



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Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

Pinoy food trip in Singapore

FACADE of 7,107 Flavours, the all-in-one restaurant offering Pinoy fare from traditional *lechon de leche* and *kare-kare* to modern fusion cuisine while promoting Filipino culture and tourist destinations

7,107 Flavours, the first Filipino fine-dining restaurant in the Lion City, opens in Marina Square along the famed Raffles Boulevard

Text and photos by Vangie Baga-Reyes,
daughter of Nap V. Baga

LECHON KAWALI MEETS Hainanese chicken. Or, *bagoong* meets *blachan*. Better still, *kakanin* meets *kaya* toast. Get the grip?

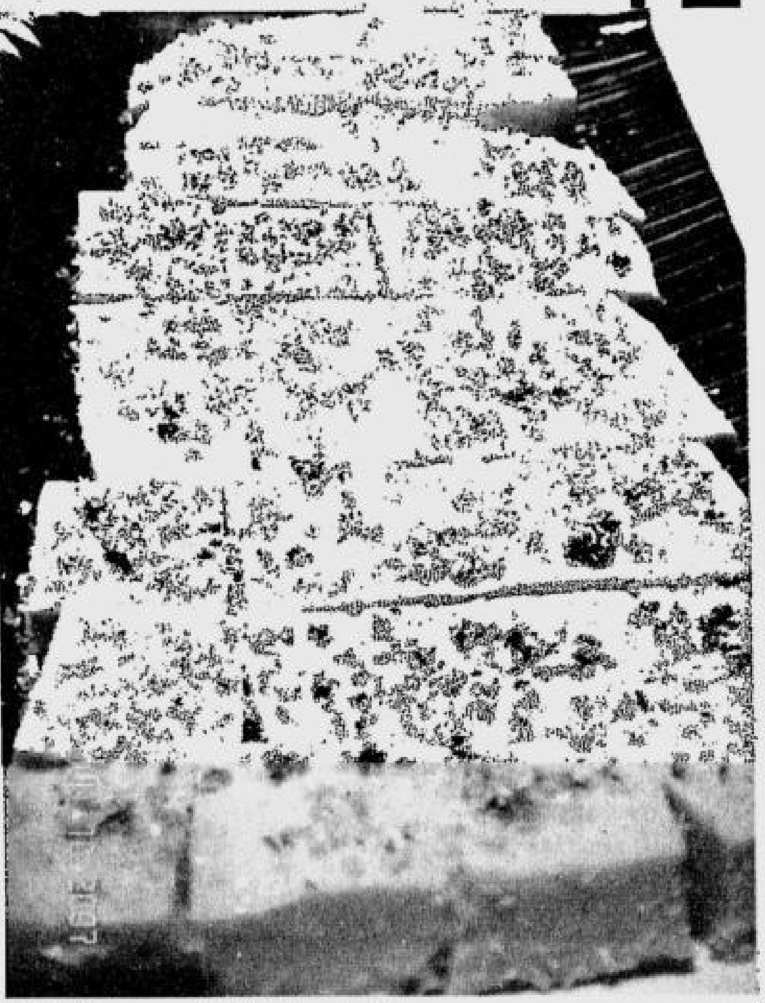
When they say Singapore is fast becoming a multi-regional hub of culture and cuisines, then Philippine cuisine should better be part of it. And so, with 7,107 Flavours opening on the second level of Marina Square along the famed Raffles Boulevard shopping strip, our Filipino food can now be at par with other better-known culinary fare in the region.

7,107 Flavours is the first Filipino fine-dining restaurant in Singapore. There are some smaller canteen-type Pinoy food places around the Lion City, but not this kind where the restaurant not only serves traditional Filipino dishes in an elegant setting but also seeks to become a culture hub for Pinoys. In a corner of the friendly, cozy resto is a travel desk that highlights Filipino crafts and prime holiday spots.

"To create a more experiential medium to promote the Philippines, we've started a program called Philippine travel cafe program. This program marries the sights, sounds and tastes of the Philippines in one product," said Tourism Sec. Joseph Durano, who graced the opening ceremony along with Department of Tourism Usec. Edu Jarque and Rica Bueno, head of Asia-Pacific marketing team for tourism.

"It is a project where we have to find local investors because we are not in the business of running restaurants. Therefore, our success is highly dependent on finding the right partners on the market. We are very fortunate to find these investors in Singapore. Or,

PINOY/ E2


MAJA Blanca made of carabao's milk

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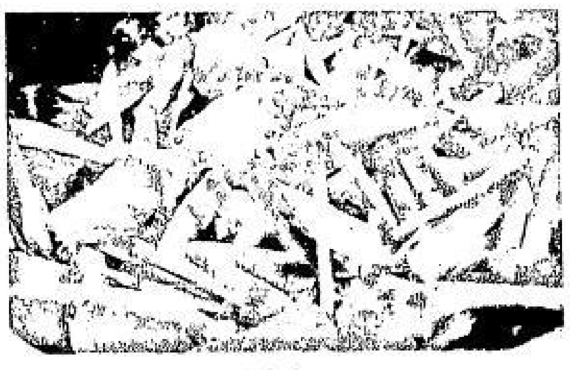

POMELO and Mango Salad

LECHE Flan

Pinoy food trip in Singapore

From page E1

rather, I should say, we are very fortunate that they found us," added Durano.

Three owners

7,107 Flavours is owned and run by three good friends, Singaporean Elaine Teh and Filipinos Noel Perdigon and Pen Villanueva.

Teh is the executive director of Octopus Holdings, which manages the most popular thematic bars and clubs in Singapore, including Eski Bar.

Perdigon has been in Singapore for seven years now, after relocating from Citibank Philippines. He's the bank's group information security officer for Asia-Pacific.

Villanueva runs her own travel agency in Singapore and Manila.

All three have the same passion for food, and they met through Philippine tourism attaché in Singapore Gerosel Siquian.

Exotic experiences

"It all began with a simple conversation," recalled Teh, who was seated with Siquian while watching a Philippine fashion show in Singapore almost a year ago. "Not having been to the Philippines, I was so pleased with what I saw that night. I also got to taste some Filipino food. I made a joking remark to Gerosel that she should take me to the Philippines."

Siquian took her seriously, and brought her to Cebu two months later.

"That was my very first trip to the Philippines, and from then on I kept coming back to see more destinations like Palawan and Boracay. I've discovered the beaches, the vibrant culture and, most importantly, I had a chance to partake of Filipino food that is surprisingly quite unknown to Singaporeans," said Teh, who has fallen in love with *lechon de leche.* She also eats *kare-kare* with *bagoong* for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

7,107 FLAVOURS
PHILIPPINE CUISINE, CULTURE & TRAVEL
TOURISM Sec. Joseph Durano introduces the owners of 7,107 Flavours: Pen Villanueva, Noel Perdigon and Elaine Teh.

The opening was attended by Philippine Ambassador to Singapore Belen Anota. Fashion designer Renee Salud held a mini-fashion show featuring Philippine traditional costumes. A cultural performance by Sindaw also highlighted the occasion. Singapore-based Filipinos Rico Hizon and Pamela Wildheart emceed the evening.

7,107 Flavours gets its name from the number of islands in the Philippines. The 220-sq m restaurant can accommodate 130 diners and 30 people for its al fresco dining. It has beautiful and modern Filipino interiors, based on traditional concepts and inspired by native materials such as abaca and rattan, all imported from the Philippines.

THE restaurant transforms into a bar at night. It also serves Pinoy beer.

NATIVE materials such as abaca and rattan are used in the restaurant.

There are hardwood tables and rattan chairs, and fabrics like *tinalak* from Davao are displayed at the doorway. There are also a number of paintings depicting Philippine sceneries, plus plasma TV sets showing prime vacation spots.

The restaurant's logo, created by topnotch visual artist Dengcoy Miel, depicts the many flavors of the Philippines, with a lady in *terno* stirring the food inside a pot.

Traditional food

At the moment, the restaurant is offering buffet dining to mark the Philippine Independence Day celebration for the whole month. It will start its a la carte dining in July.

7,107 Flavours' menu covers traditional Filipino dishes from all regions: Cebu's *humba, bam-i guisado* and *escabecheng tanguigue*; Iloilo's *inasal na manok, pancit molo, pata at kadyos* and *arroz valenciana*; Davao's grilled *tuna panga* and *rellenong pusit*; Zamboanga's *callos* and *guinataang curacha*; Pampanga's *sisig* and *sugpo sa taba ng alique*; Ilocano's *pinakbet na bagnet*, Vigan *longganisa*, and *igado*; Batangas' beef *caldereta, bulalo* and *bistek tagalog*; Palawan's *maya-maya sinigang sa mangga* and *mechado*; and Bicol's *laing* and *gising-gising*.

Being at the center of the country, Manila's cosmopolitan atmosphere is reflected in the flavors of its food, like *lechon de leche* with *paella, crispy pata, chicken-pork-adobo*, and *lechon kawali*. The resto also serves Pinoy beer.

Filipino chefs trained by Via Mare restaurant are manning the kitchen to ensure that every dish brings out the Philippines' rich culinary heritage. Even the wait staff are Filipinos.

"The restaurant's patrons will also be treated to special performances by visiting Filipino musicians, as well as Singapore-based Filipino bands," said Perdigon. "In the evening, the restaurant will be transformed into a cosmopolitan watering hole with live entertainment for Filipinos and non-Filipinos alike."

"We also intend to feature exhibits by masters and even upcoming artists to give them a chance to breakthrough in Singapore," added Villanueva.

TRAVEL BRIEFS

'Lean season' rates

Amorita Beach Resort, a world-class leisure facility in the heart of Bohol, lets you enjoy the last few sunny days before the rainy season with its "lean season" rates for the whole month of June. Nestled atop a cliff, Amorita gives an unobstructed panoramic view of the sea. Guests could spend the day at the beach or lounging by the pool with a good book while sipping *piña colada*. Call 9140585; visit www.amoritaresort.com; or e-mail inquiries@amoritaresort.com.

Fusion of old & new

Hong Kong is a premier Asian city, fusing Chinese traditions and Western customs. It is a melting pot of different cultural influences. The city's Living Culture and enduring traditions include the ancient art of *feng shui*, tea appreciation, horse racing and tai chi. Feng shui is the popular practice of positioning objects in harmony with nature to create good fortune. Horseracing is Hong Kong's signature sport, attracting the world's top jockeys and trainers. To the Chinese, tea is the "water of life" and it has given rise to many lifestyle traditions. Tai chi is a graceful, health-loving form of martial arts created in the 12th century. For more about Hong Kong's Living Culture, visit www.discoverhongkong.com.

'Irresistible' promo

Camp John Hay Manor in Baguio City offers the after-summer promo "Irresistible Baguio" until Sept. 30. The promo offers 50-percent off for a minimum of two nights stay: Superior Rooms at P2,150, Deluxe Rooms at P2,400, One-Bedroom Suites at P3,350, Two-Bedroom Suites at P5,650. Room rates are all inclusive. Recreational facilities include the 18-hole, par 69 Camp John Hay Golf Course (tels: 8450892 or 8450911; Manila sales office, 6876710 or 6876524; Baguio office, 074- 4240931-47/50-53; fax, 074-4240960; e-mail, cjhmanor@skyinet.net; web site, www.campjohnhayhotels).

Wealth is health

By Rowena C. Burgos

A survey conducted by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation shows that rich people today define the term beyond material possessions

THE WEALTHY HAVE ALWAYS measured themselves by the amount of money they have in their bank accounts, the cars they drive, the houses and jewels they own and the places they have toured.

But a survey on the new symbols of wealth recently conducted by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) shows that an emerging affluent class in the world today has realized there is more to life than the pursuit of wealth.

Wealth, to them, includes good health, knowledge, family and life experiences.

"The new affluent are open-minded and future-oriented. They are well-traveled. They are modern, unpretentious yet ambitious. They see the world as full of opportunities to learn, grow and get the most out of life. They no longer pursue wealth just for wealth's sake; they spend time to enjoy the things that really matter in life," says Martin Cook, Deputy CEO and head of Personal Financial Services.

Top motivator

According to the survey, providing a comfortable life for one's family is the top motivator for the affluent to increase their financial wealth. Other reasons cited include supporting their children's education and their parents, purchasing a house and travelling.

In more developed cities like Hong Kong, Sydney and Singapore, preparing for retirement also stands out as a key motivator.

So can wealth bring happiness? Based on HSBC's survey, it can because wealth allows a person to take care of his family, enable them to see the world, buy whatever they want and allow them the freedom to pursue their hobbies and interests.

MARTIN Cook, Deputy CEO and head of Personal Financial Services

"But this is not to say that they have dropped the pursuit of wealth. In fact, the new rich have become smarter and more discerning in growing their assets. They seek opportunities locally and abroad, are selective about the rewards tied to their status and value access to choices to be financially secure," says Suresh Nanoo, senior vice president and head of Marketing and Brand Development.

Borderless banking

To address the wealthy's evolving needs, HSBC has launched the HSBC Premier, a global wealth management service for the growing number of affluent around the world.

The new Premier provides a seamless international banking experience to customers who work or live overseas or have international banking needs.

A Premier customer in one country is automatically entitled to be a Premier client in other countries with minimum entry requirements waived. Overseas HSBC accounts can likewise be opened free of charge at the International Banking Center prior to departure.

Free fund transfers online between their own named accounts are likewise available. Further, HSBC introduces a functionality within Internet banking wherein customers can access all their HSBC accounts held in different countries through a single log-on account.

Clients may also enjoy pre-approved loans for overseas property purchase subject to local regulations, as well as a pre-approved Premier MasterCard with waived annual fees. A wide range of local shopping, dining, hotel and recreational privileges and discounts await Premier customers when they travel overseas through the Home & Away offers.

Premier customers have access to a 24-hour worldwide emergency service, which can provide credit card replacement and emergency cash. Premier call centers around the world are available 24/7 to service clients' requirements.

SURESH Nanoo, Senior Vice President and head of Marketing and Brand Development

There are now 250 HSBC Premier centers in 35 countries. In the Philippines, clients can have access to 13 centers in Metro Manila; two in Cebu; and one in Davao.

Treats and perks

To celebrate the new HSBC Premier in the Philippines, new Premier clients will receive gift certificates from Rustan's, Makati Shangri-La or Bacchus International. They will also have a chance to experience a wine, dine and shopping adventure to Australia, including business class airline tickets, accommodations at top hotels, meals at renowned restaurants, trips to famous vineyards and shopping money.

"HSBC Premier represents a genuine innovation in service for an important customer base and a chance for HSBC to organically grow its personal finance business. With the increasing number of mass affluent consumers around the globe, HSBC Premier bids to help them explore opportunities locally and overseas, grow and preserve their wealth and enjoy the rewards of their hard work," Cook says.

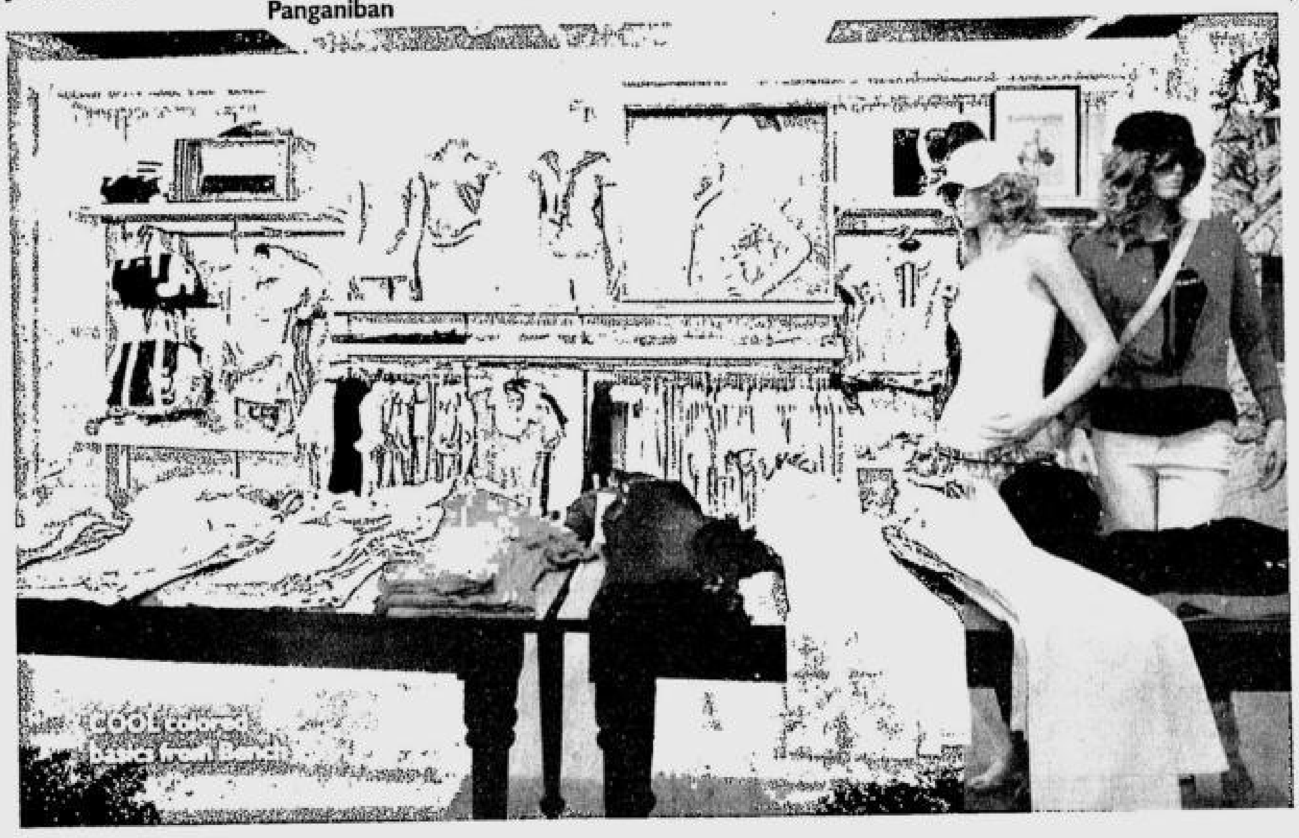
JOHN Prats

ANGELICA Panganiban

JAKE Cuenca

RICA Peralejo

RAFAEL Rossel

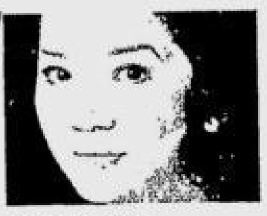

COOL colored basics from Bench

IYA Villania

PIOLO Pascual

SHAINA Magdayao

SAM Milby


KRIS Aquino

New fashion address north of Manila

GROWING BIGGER AND HIPPER, BENCH will open its flagship store on June 17, at 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., in Trinoma, the newest mall in Quezon City.

With its fun and funky tees and bottoms, as well as beauty products, the Bench shop will offer cool basics and casual musts in fashion.

The Trinoma shop may become one of the brand's biggest stores, spanning over a total floor area of 1,050 sqm.

Like Bench, Trinoma brings a fresh look to the city as the new haven for fashion. The new Bench store, meanwhile, is expected to inject color, style and savvy north of the metropolis.

Expected to grace the opening of the new shop are Bench models Diether Ocampo, Angelica Panganiban, Rafael Rosell, Mikee Lee, Jake Cuenca and John Mullaly.

Meanwhile, the Bench Model Search is ongoing. It will be launched as a new reality TV show on ABS-CBN.

Auditions started June 15 at SM Megamall Activity Center, and June 16 at Trinoma Activity Area Center.

The auditions will continue June 22 at the ABS-CBN studio.

Aspiring models, 18-25 years old, male and female, Filipino citizens or with Filipino lineage, who stand at least 5'5" for females and 5'7" for males, may apply.

Applicants must fill out application forms available in all Bench, Herbench, Bench Body and Superbench stores. They should include a valid receipt representing a minimum purchase of P200 and original copies or certified copies of their birth certificates. They must come to the auditions wearing Bench apparel.

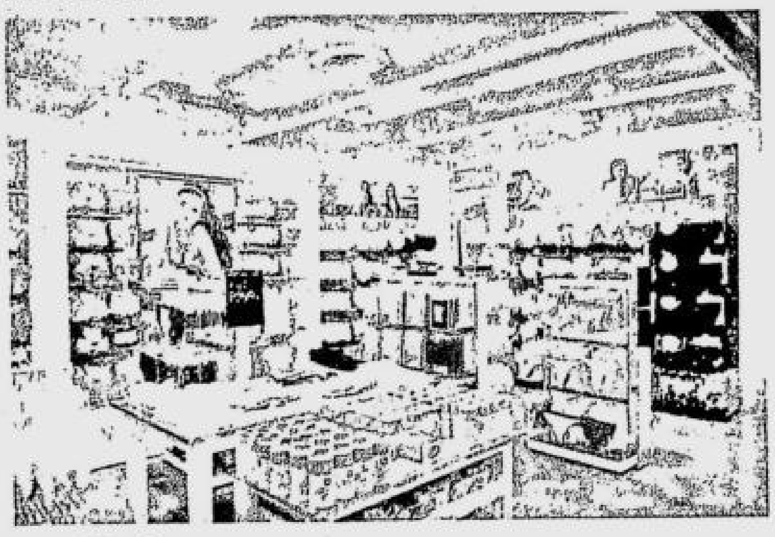
Visit www.benchmodelsearch.com.

ZANJOE Marudo

CHRISTIAN Bautista

ENCHONG Dee

RAYVER Cruz


BENCH Body products

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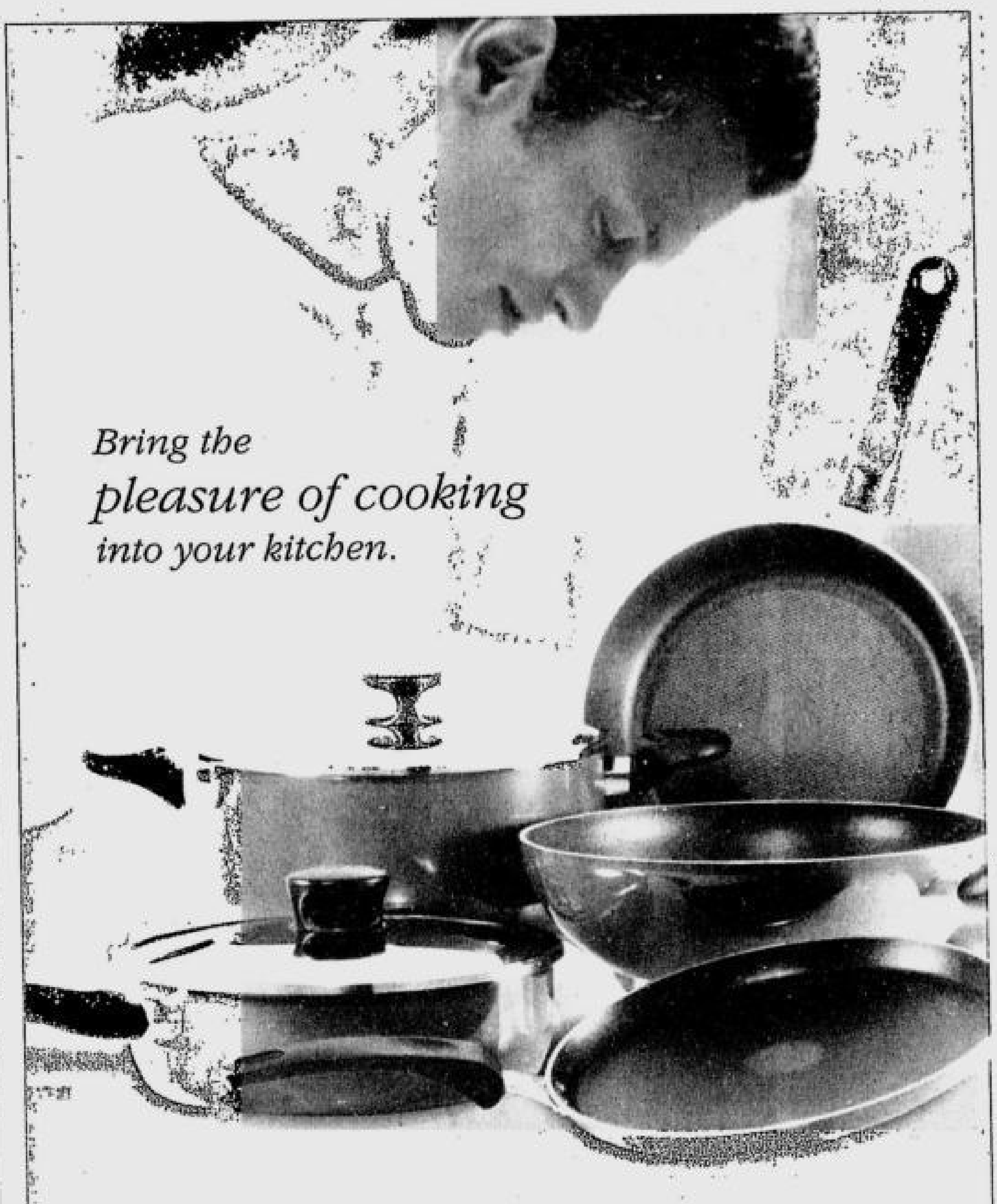
JON Mullaly



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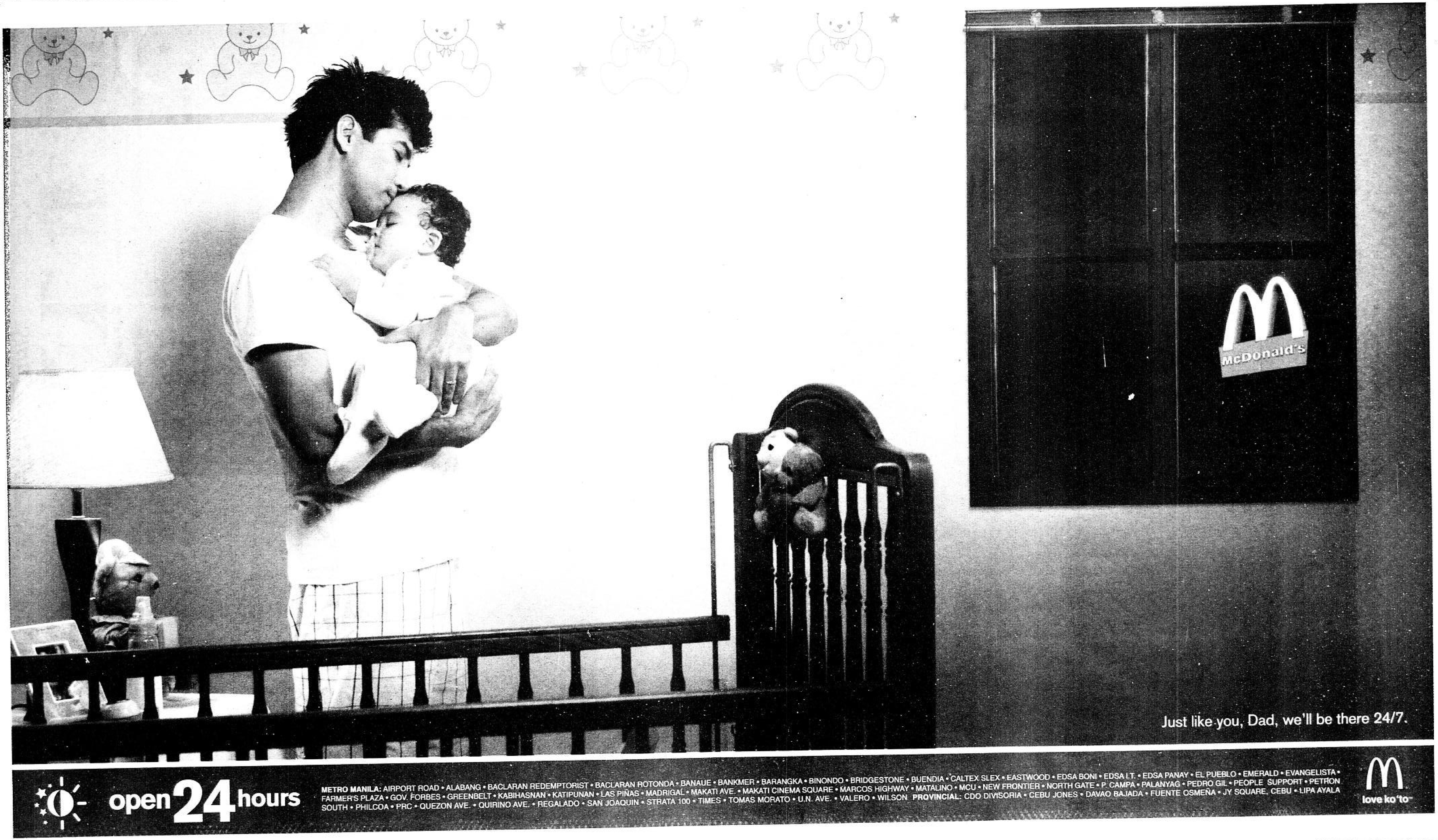

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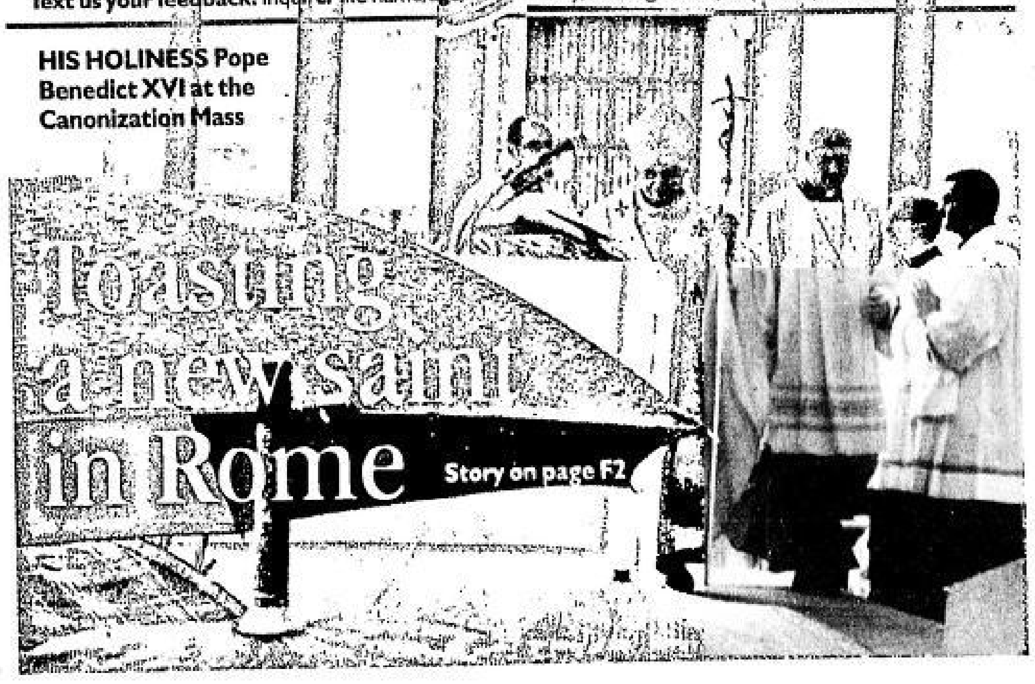

HIS HOLINESS Pope Benedict XVI at the Canonization Mass

Toasting a new saint in Rome

Story on page F2

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A Heart-to-Heart Talk with Christopher de Leon

From his tour de force performance on his first film, *Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang*, which gave him the 1974 FAMAS best actor award, to the countless other critically-acclaimed movies in his career, Christopher de Leon has displayed a remarkable passion – and heart – for his craft.

He is thankful for the talent that made him one of the top performers in the local entertainment industry, but credits his success to the best directors in local cinema.

"*Lahat ng magagaling nakatrabaho ko,*" he says, mentioning National Artists Lino Brocka, Ishmael Bernal, Eddie Romero, and avant-garde film maker Mike de Leon.

"I learned that the highest form of art is discipline. I thought I was just a plain actor, but my mentors told me to present myself as a whole package to the audience. I had to learn mime, dance, martial arts, fencing, horseback riding and take up voice lessons," he reveals.

He believes keeping fit and healthy is part of his responsibility to the public. "I am my own product," he admits, so he takes care of his body with proper diet and exercise.

Heart of the Matter

His healthy living habits are apparent in his physique, but he explains there's more to it than just vanity.

"A healthy lifestyle helps to control my blood pressure and helps reduce the risk of a heart attack."

Thus, he watches his diet, eating plenty of organic fruits and vegetables, to make sure he gets the right nutrition for a healthy heart.

He also lifts weights regularly at his gym at home and plays tennis and basketball to give his heart a good work-out. He is a regular at the Showbiz All-Stars sporting event which travels around the country. A diving enthusiast, he goes to Anilao for additional cardio exercise.

He doesn't smoke and drinks only an occasional glass of red wine during showbiz gatherings.

Moreover, the actor has a deep spiritual life. He is an active member of the Catholic charismatic movement and is fondly called Brother Bo in the Oasis of Love community.

Keeping his heart healthy and protected is a top concern because it is the center of activity in the body. It pumps life-giving blood, oxygen and nutrients to the tissues and organs, and gives him the strength and stamina to handle his grueling work schedule.

Heart Protection with Ensure

In addition to diet, exercise and stress management, he helps keep his heart healthy and protected by drinking a glass of **Ensure** everyday.

It's the no. 1 complete and balanced adult nutritional drink recommended by doctors worldwide. Ideal for those who wish to follow a heart-healthy diet, it has an improved fat blend rich in mono- and polyunsaturated fatty acids, the so-called "good fats", that meets the standards of the American Heart Association and the National Cholesterol Education Program.*

Ensure helps prevent cholesterol build-up and helps keep blood pressure in check. It is fortified with fiber and antioxidants to help protect heart tissue from free radicals that can damage the arteries. With a healthy lifestyle, **Ensure** can help reduce the risk of coronary heart disease.

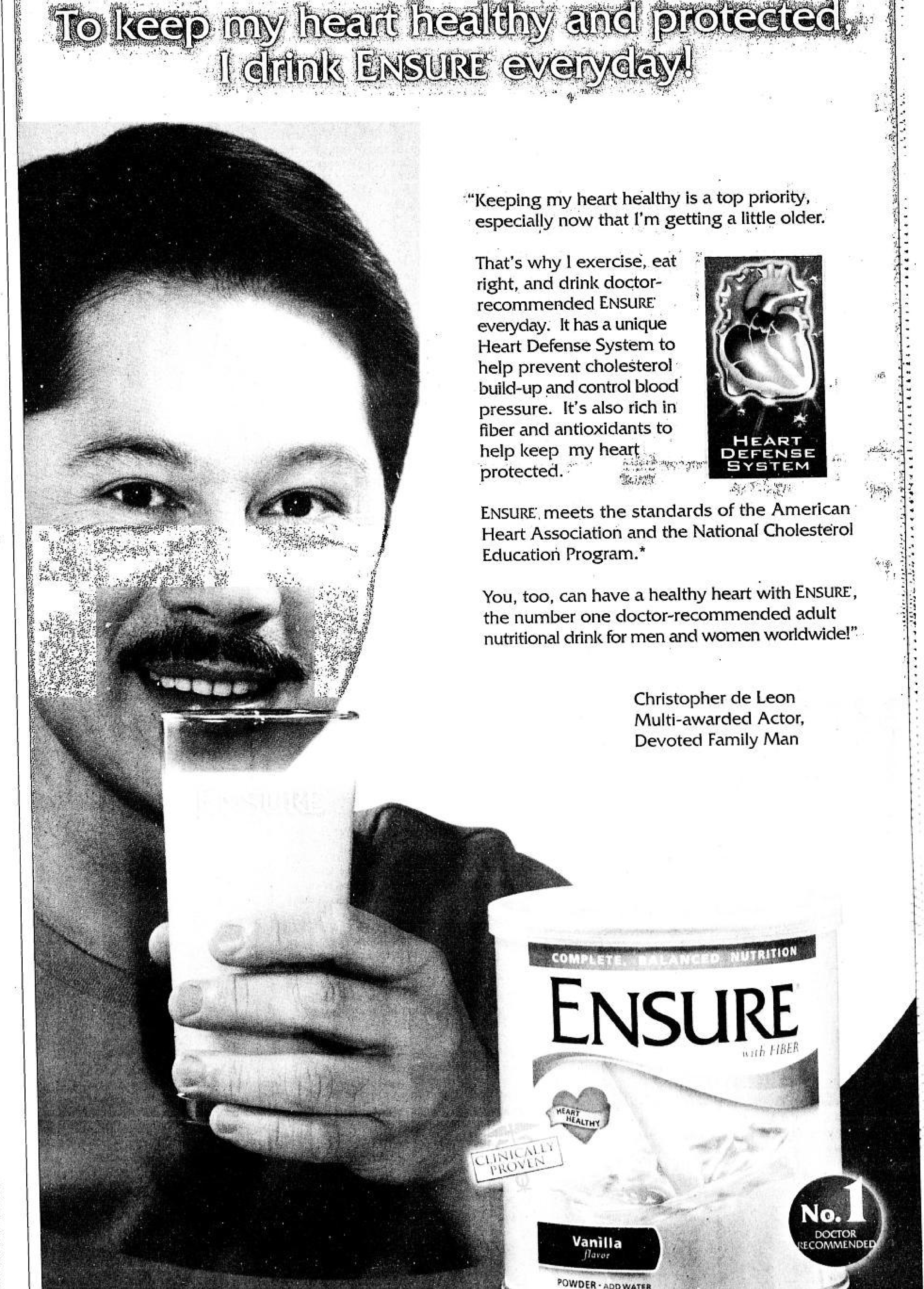
Ensure comes in vanilla and chocolate flavors and can be used as a supplement or sole source of nutrition. It has 28 essential vitamins and minerals, and can be included in various recipes to meet one's daily nutritional needs.

With a rich harvest of acting awards and blockbuster hits, Christopher de Leon is undoubtedly one of the most respected and enduring artists in the local film, tv and music business.

His advice to the new breed of performers: "Love your work and it will love you back."

** On the level of dietary cholesterol and sodium, and the absence of trans fat*

ADVT



To keep my heart healthy and protected, I drink ENSURE everyday!

"Keeping my heart healthy is a top priority, especially now that I'm getting a little older.

That's why I exercise, eat right, and drink doctor-recommended ENSURE everyday. It has a unique Heart Defense System to help prevent cholesterol build-up and control blood pressure. It's also rich in fiber and antioxidants to help keep my heart protected.

ENSURE meets the standards of the American Heart Association and the National Cholesterol Education Program.*

You, too, can have a healthy heart with ENSURE, the number one doctor-recommended adult nutritional drink for men and women worldwide!"

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* On the level of dietary cholesterol and sodium, and the absence of trans fats

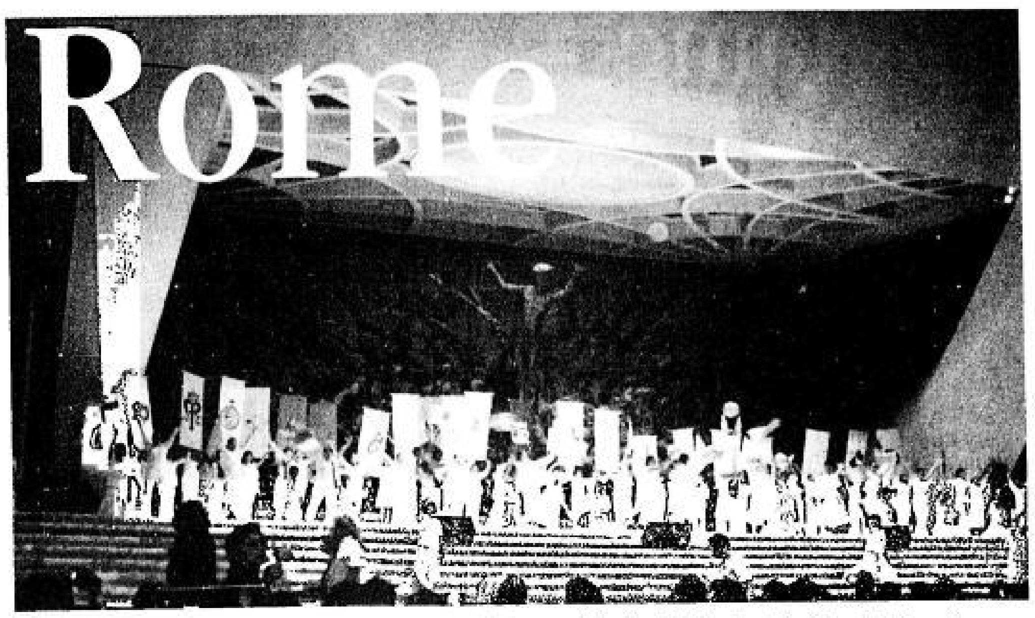
Abbott
A Promise for Life

FRIENDS at St. Ignatius Chapel. Lulu Fragante-Hukom, Ditas Escaler-Khouri, Ernest Escaler, Bishop Frederico Escaler, Nini Quezon-Avancena, Judy Araneta-Roxas, Lourdes Montinola. Second row: Maridol Mabanta, Gina Montinola, Mary de Leon, Mercy Tuason, Josie Bantug, Ching Escaler and Pandot Ocampo

YOUTH night guest of honor President Macapagal-Arroyo with Lory-vi Valdes, Sea Princess, Ambassador to the Vatican Nida Vera, AAA president Baby Goyena-Herrera and provincial superior of Phil-Thailand Sr. Marjo Matias

LUNCH at the Philippine Embassy. Cynthia Carreon, Conchitina Bernardo, Mary de Leon, Isabel Tobias, Mercy Tuason, Sen. Mariam Defensor-Santiago, Ambassador to Italy Philippe Lhuillier, Nene Quimzon. Seated: Charito Montenegro, Cardinal Jose Sanchez, Lovely Romulo and Gina de Venecia

Toasting a new saint in Rome


FINALE of the Assumption Concert at the Vatican with the Philippine-Thailand delegation

MAYBE SOMEONE SHOULD have sent eggs to the Sisters of Sta. Clara. Last June 3, scores of pilgrims from all over the world converged at the Vatican to witness the canonization of **St. Marie Eugenie** of Jesus Milleret. And it rained.

TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes
Daughter of Alex Prieto

In the midst of a summer downpour, **Pope Benedict XVI** canonized St. Marie Eugenie 32 years after her beatification by **Pope Paul VI**, along with three others: **St. George Preca from Malta, St. Simon Lipnicy** from Poland and **St. Charles Houben** from Holland. But the rain hardly dampened the spirits of the hundreds of Assumptionistas who came to see their founder elevated to the pantheon of saints.

Early this year, the wonderful announcement of St. Marie Eugenie's canonization spread quickly through the halls of Assumption schools. So many planned their summer vacations to be in Rome two Sundays ago. And the more fervent ones even included pilgrim tours to France where her remains lie.

A canonization is an event not to be missed. A few years ago, hundreds of Pinoys also witnessed the sainthood of **St. Josemaria Escriva**, founder of Opus Dei. **Leah Puyat**, co-owner of Cereo Candles, tearfully shared her moving experience at that ceremony. Her recollection was all the convincing I needed to contact my Batch '81 classmates, who were already in Italy, and catch up with them in Rome.

I have to thank for the last-minute travel skills of Jeni Go of Travelex Travel Services (tel. 16-3701-10), truly the Fedex of travel agents. The tagline: "When it absolutely, positively has to be there overnight," could be hers, too.

My Roman holiday started with a visit to Castel Romano. Despite the name, it is not a historical castle but an outlet mall just outside Rome. Only after some sinful shopping could we focus on the purpose of the trip—touring, sampling the scrumptious food and of course, the canonization.

> Only after some sinful shopping could we focus on the purpose of the trip—the canonization of the Assumption founder

The Opening Mass to welcome the pilgrims was held in St. John Lateran Cathedral. An interesting tidbit is that this cathedral is the seat of the Rome diocese, not St. Peter's since that is technically in Vatican City. It is also a majestic cathedral on its own, worth a visit to view its towering façade and Borromini's baroque interiors.

Assumption DNA

The Mass started late as Assumptionistas from over 34 countries needed more than 30 minutes to settle down. The girls were excited to see who else was attending the festivities. I noticed even the Spanish and South American ladies were screaming as they exchanged pleasantries. It must be our Assumption DNA.

My own batchmates and I planned to meet at the Spanish Steps for cocktails before the vigil at the St. Gregory VII Church that same evening. Around five batchmates had flown in from the United States to be in this important occasion, and so of course, a mini-reunion cum celebration was only justified.

With almost 1,200 sisters forming 170 communities throughout the world, different versions of the distinctive Assumption nuns' habits could be seen around the cathedral. For example, the Indian nuns wore saris in the colors of Assumption. All of which just meant more excuses for photo-ops with almost everyone.

Opposite St. John Lateran, a small building houses what is claimed to be the staircase from Pilate's palace in Jerusalem. The Scala Santa (Sacred Stairs) is open daily for the faithful to climb—on your knees! It's an uphill version of Baclaran, a difficult task but quite rewarding and humbling when completed.

Of course, one cannot go to Italy and not shop. At the San Giovanni Exit of the Metro is a huge open-stall street market selling Prada knock-offs; leather wallets and shoes; Murano glass accessories; and lots of cheap, Italian-made *pasalubong*. It was a great discovery after doing our penance.

Unfortunately, my classmate **Popsie Gamboa** was victimized at the Metro by burglars who got her wallet and passport. Thankfully, Ambassador to the Holy See **Leonida Vera** helped us arrange with the Philippine Embassy for a new passport.

The efficient team of Ambassador to Italy **Philippe J. Lhuillier** got her a new one in less than an hour. The Ambassador explained to us that when he first took over, it took 10 days to process a passport. He truly has upgraded the services of the embassy.

Sign of blessings

If continuous rain is a sure sign of endless blessings from heaven, then all of us pilgrims received a lifetime's worth of them at the canonization. A sea of colorful umbrellas covered every inch of St. Peter's Square hours before the Celebration Mass started. Handsome Italian-suited guards manned the entrances as thousands of followers awaited the arrival of Pope Benedict.

Some fled the rain, but I just sat quietly under my umbrella for three hours, praying my rosary and staying in the moment as the saints were proclaimed, and everyone rejoiced. Afterwards, the festivities continued with a Youth Night at Sala Nervi. The Assumption youth, from different provinces, each presented a number in the "Concert of the Nations."

Our countrywomen did us proud that night. The production was beautifully composed and directed by the brilliant team of **Pinky Valdes** and **Regina Lim**. President **Macapagal-Arroyo** was able to watch part of the show before she headed off to Fatima.

All too quickly, the canonization ceremonies were over. A Thanksgiving Mass at St. Peter's Basilica provided a fitting denouement. For the first time, St. Marie Eugenie was part of the proclamation of the saints.

It was a moving weekend for so many fervent followers, including golden girl **Vicky Cruz**, Pearl Batch **Liza Lesaca-Viola** and hundreds of other Assumption graduates in the throng. Marie Eugenie's saintly words still echo in our ears: "The earth, a place of glory for God!"

And on that note, let me plug the upcoming Assumption-Ateneo Batch '82 soiree on June 22 at the Rockwell Tent. It will be the party of the '80s, with 8Track and **Boyet Almazan** playing. And with all the *kwento* of the Assumptionistas, the Ateneans will all be clamoring to have their founder, St. Ignatius of Loyola, recanonized so they, too, could go to Rome!

And as a final segue, Happy Father's Day to my hubby **Dennis**, dad **Alex**, father-in-law **Jess** and all the other great dads out there. I've got some nice fake Pradas for all of you!

E-mail the author at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.

INDIAN delegation at the Thanksgiving Mass in St. Peter's Basilica

SCALA Santa or Sacred Stairs at San Giovanni

GOLDEN girls at St. Peter's Basilica. Lirio Mapa, Vicky Cruz, Millette Ocampo, Priscilla Estrada, Diday Barretto, Raquel Salientes, Marites Lopez; partly hidden is Ditas Sonnerman.

ASSUMPTION visitors at Autiel, France. Fr. Larry Tan, SDB; Concep Cruz; Lia Cruz; Vicky Cruz; general councilor Sr. Marie Emmanuel; Lynet Villa-Real and Liza Lesaca-Viola

VIVA Il Papa!
VIVA St. Marie Eugenie of Jesus!
ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL CLASS 1981
SAN LORENZO, MAKATI CITY
PHILIPPINES
ASSUMPTION HS Batch '81 in Rome. Pia Lopez-Lorenzo, Sandy Harper-Franklin, Isabel Lacson, Sea Princess, Meg Soriano-Roque, Lorvi Mapa. Standing: Girlie Guzman-Sison, Liaa Cojuangco-Bautista, Josie Gempesaw-Barcia, Peaches Luciano-Jimenez, Chinggay Evangelista-Dizon, Jojo Reyes-Ongsiako, Pia Baens-Boncan and Popsie Gamboa

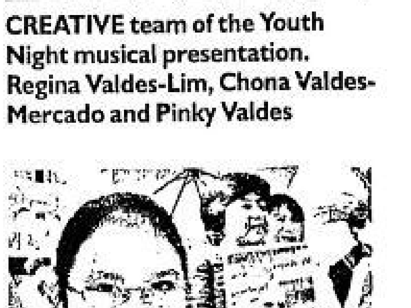
ASSUMPTION assets Chinit Delgado-Rufino and Assumption College president Sr. Gertrude Borres

CREATIVE team of the Youth Night musical presentation. Regina Valdes-Lim, Chona Valdes-Mercado and Pinky Valdes

SPANISH Steps party scene. Lulu Fragante-Hukom, Amy Ramos-Uy, Gina Gabaldon-Hechanova, Kick Molina-Alvendia. Second row: Gigi Jacinto-Jones, Liza Lesaca-Viola, Ditas Escaler-Khouri, Mielle Esteban-Canedo. Third row: Margarita Fores, Buncy Dy Buncio-Obuchowski and Ria Sandoval

AT ST. JOHN Lateran Church. Biso Limjap-Villasenor, Sr. Giselle Valderrama, Ramos-Uy, Marjo Macasaet-Severino, Liza Lesaca-Viola, Pia Maceda and Sr. Fe Beltran

BLESSED tomb of St. Marie Eugenie of Jesus in Auteil, France


MIRACLE child Risa Bondoc, whose story led to the canonization of St. Marie Eugenie

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Darang
Daughter of Pompeyo Darang Sr.

Apparition of Virgin Mary in New York

FILIPINO VISIONARY-HEALER CARMElo Cortez told me how five priests, seven seminarians and six lay people "felt" the presence of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the basement of a home in Staten Island, New York.

Only Carmelo could see the Virgin, but the others saw the roses in the room moving though there was no electric fan.

At 3 a.m. on June 12, 1999, Fr. Manny Colmenar, Fr. Tony Roxas, Fr. Alex Enriquez, Fr. Jun Esguerra and Fr. Ariel de los Reyes, with seven seminarians, were in the basement of the house of Doctors Eduardo and Mely Nepomuceno. So were Prudencio de Luna, Polly de Luna, Jovy Magkatipunan and Romy Magkatipunan.

As they prayed the Holy Rosary, Carmelo announced: "*Nandito na ang Birhen.*" Everybody knelt facing the direction where Carmelo was "talking" to the Virgin.

Carmelo said the Virgin stayed for 15 minutes and told him to relay her messages to the people. She said: "Pray for priests, receive the Eucharist in Holy Communion, go to Confession often, pray the Rosary every day, and spend an holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament.

When Carmelo said: "*Aalis na ang Birhen,*" everybody cried. Fr. Colmenar said he was so overwhelmed he again dedicated his priesthood to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Arlene Nepomuceno, daughter of the owners of the house, couldn't make it to Staten Island from her home in Connecticut because she just gave birth. She told her parents later she smelled the scent of roses at the time the apparition was taking place.

Carmelo belongs to the prayer group composed mostly of Filipino doctors in New York.

Audience with Pope

In a recent pilgrimage to Rome, Carmelo and his wife Rosita joined a special audience with Pope Benedict XVI in St. Peter's Square. Carmelo showed the Holy Father a copy of my column where he was featured.

Carmelo said it was a special moment. He said: "The Pope was kind and, when he talked to me, he looked me straight in the eye."

His wife Rosita held a small replica of the Mother of the Eucharist and Grace, which is enthroned in a chapel in Barangay San Vicente in Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

Healing Masses are held there at 12 noon on First Saturdays. During this time, rose petals blessed and given to pilgrims turn into religious icons.

Lady of All Nations

The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared in 1945-1959 in Amsterdam to a simple woman, Ida Peerdeman, three years before she appeared in Lipa to Teresing Castillo in 1948.

Mary revealed herself under the new title with which she wanted to be known and loved by all people at this time: "The Lady of All Nations" or "The Mother of All Nations."

In a prophetic vision, she showed the situation in the church and the world during the second half of the 20th century. Little by little, Mary revealed in messages God's plan to save the world through His Mother.

She showed through Ida how her image would look and gave her a prayer. Our Lady said: "See to it that every year the nations are assembled around this throne, before this image." The Day of Prayer May 31.

The Lady of All Nations dictated a short, powerful prayer to Ida to protect us from degeneration, threatening disaster and war. She asked that everybody said it at least once a day.

The Chapel of The Lady of All Nations is in Diepenbrockstraat 3, NL-1077 VX Amsterdam, The Netherlands. For free prayer cards, please write to Confraternity of the Lady of All Nations, PO Box 8, 814 Dasmariñas Village, 1222 Makati; fax 8445572 or text 0920-9536311.

Padre Pio

To commemorate the fifth anniversary of the canonization of St. Pio of Pietrelcina, the Philippine Center for St. Pio of Pietrelcina, Inc. held a Eucharistic celebration yesterday at the St. Pio Chapel, 188 E. Rodriguez, Jr. Avenue (C5), Bagumbayan, QC.

Padre Pio, proclaimed saint by Pope John Paul II in 2002, was known for his gifts of healing, prophecy and discernment, among others. He was born to simple, hardworking farming parents in 1887 in Pietrelcina, southern Italy. He joined the Capuchin friars at age 15. Of feeble health but strong will, he completed the required studies and was ordained priest in 1910.

In 1918, at age 31, the five wounds of our Lord's Passion appeared on his body making him the first stigmatized priest in the history of the church.

Countless people were attracted to his confessional and many received his saintly and spiritual guidance.

After over half a century of immense suffering and constant apostolic activity in San Giovanni Rotondo, he died in 1968. Our Lady of Grace Church in San Giovanni is full of pilgrims seeking his healing spiritually and physically.

New deacons

Diosdado A. Talamayan, D.D., archbishop of Tuguegarao, founder and bishop-protector of the Eucharistic Healers of Mary, ordained yesterday deacons Jelito Caparas (Arayat, Pampanga); Johmer Faderanga (Banton, Romblon); and Glenn Mercado (Balingasag, Misamis Oriental) at the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of Piat in Cagayan.

The Eucharistic Healers of Mary is a religious institute that cares for sick and old priests and the elderly. Their formator is Fr. Lorenzo Marzo. Those wishing to help the institute can text Fr. Marzo at 0921-6361580.

Marian seminar

The Missionaries of Mary will hold a Marian seminar at 8:30 a.m., June 24, at the Manresa retreat house, 926 Banawe corner Del Monte Aves., QC. Registration fee is P50. Call 7438729. Holy Mass at 4 p.m. will be celebrated by Fr. Efren de Guzman, SVD. Speakers are Fr. Phil Estrella, EMI; Fr. Louie Niez, AM; and Fr. Aloysius Aliño.

Tune in to Radio Veritas (846 AM band) 7-8 p.m., today, for "Santo Expedito, Ang Santong Madaling Lapitan," presented by the Society of St. Expeditus. For novenas, write to me c/o INQUIRER. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Milestones

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

DURAN 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Rogelio Duran and **Erlinda Cruz** recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with a renewal of vows at the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Church in San Ildefonso, Bulacan. Reception was at Paul Cruz Resort. Photography was by **Don Viñas** of Printshoppe Digital Studio.

MIRANDA-GABIOLA

Simon Pavel T. Miranda, son of engineer **Rene** and **Ma. Teresa Miranda**, recently wed **Jihan B. Gabiola**, daughter of **Rolando** and **Carol Gabiola**, at the St. Francis of Assisi Parish Church, Mandaluyong. Reception was held at William J. Shaw Pavilion in Wack Wack Golf and Country Club. The bride wore a gown by **Randall Solomon**.

LUANZON-ZEPEDA

Christian S. Luanzon, a rookie of the Alaska Milk team in the Philippine Basketball Association and son of **Ricardo** and **Rona Luanzon**, will tie the knot with **Marie S. Zepeda**, daughter of **Ramon** and **Evelyn Zepeda**, on June 30, at the Christ Commission Fellowship (CCF), St. Francis Square, Mandaluyong. Reception will follow at Annapolis Seafood Restaurant in Greenhills, San Juan.

Sa mga mapagmahal
na Tatay, isang pagbati
ngayong Father's Day.
FEVER
BODY ACHES
CLOGGED NOSE
BABANGON KA SA FLU.
PAG BIOFLU.
BIOFLU
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CHLORPHENAMINE MALEATE
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If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

Eat out and Shop with Dad at SM

Spend Father's Day with your Super Dad at SM Supermalls.

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Eat out with Dad

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Special Moments with Dad Photo Contest

by Photoline, Picture City, Great Image & Kameraworld

June 17 - 30
SM City North Edsa, SM City Fairview SM City Manila, SM Supercenter Valenzuela SM City Sta. Mesa, SM City San Lazaro SM Megamall, SM City Sucat, SM Mall of Asia SM Supercenter Pasig, SM City Bicutan SM City Bacoor, SM Southmall

Dads Fashion Show and Makeover

June 17
SM City Bicutan, SM Supercenter Molino, SM City Lipa, SM City Bacolod SM City Davao, SM City Lucena, SM City Cagayan de Oro, SM City Sta. Mesa

Father and Child Pizza Eating/Making Contest

by Pizza Hut

June 17
SM City Baguio, SM City Dasmariñas SM City Clark, SM City Iloilo, SM City Cebu SM City Pampanga, SM Supercenter Molino SM City Lucena

Musical Tribute to Dads

June 17
SM City Cebu
SM City Iloilo

Father & Child Singing Contests and Talent Shows

June 17
SM City Cagayan de Oro
SM City Baguio

RC Car Racing

by Tamiya
c/o LiL's Hobby Shop

June 17
SM Mall of Asia
June 23
SM Southmall
June 30
SM City Sucat

PLDT Libreng Tawag Kay Itay

June 17
SM Southmall

Level-Up! Gaming with Dad

June 17
SM Southmall

Concerts and Mall Tours

June 17
SM Supercenter Valenzuela (Mark Bautista) SM City Lipa (Rachelle Ann Go back-to-back with Jimmy Marquez), SM City Batangas (The Dawn), SM City Sta. Rosa (Jed Madela) SM City Dasmariñas (Auriette)

Ace Hardware Gadgets and Tools Fair

June 17
SM City Manila
SM City Sucat
SM City Fairview
SM Megamall

Other Events

June 17
SM City Clark
Father and Kid Endurance Challenge
Dad's Big Weekend
Dance Revo Competition
SM City Dasmariñas
Singing Daddy Videoke Challenge
SM City Marilao
Father & Child Grand Slam Shootout
SM City Lucena
Dad's Craze : Techno Fair and Living Gallery
Awarding of Superdads
SM City Sta. Rosa
Kiddie Fun Day with Dad

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Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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Biñan & Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Lipa and Batangas
Mabalacat, Pampanga

TESSIE Tomas as Meldita

Learning from new colleagues

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

Veteran comedienne Tessie Tomas is impressed with the younger comedians

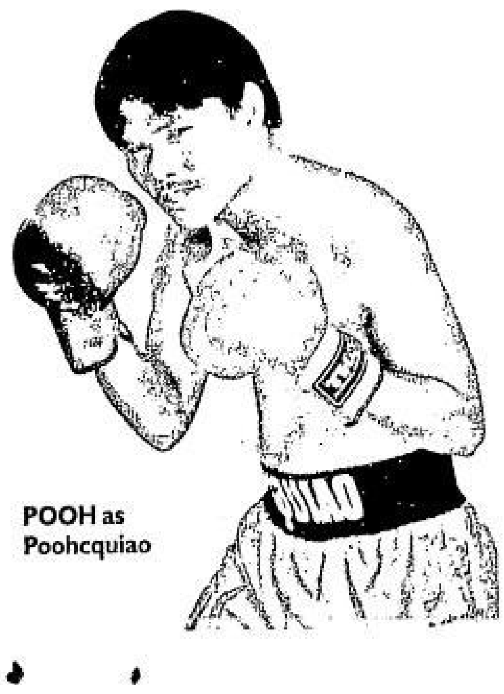
ALTHOUGH SHE HAS JUST celebrated her silver year in the biz, veteran comic Tessie Tomas says she still picks up new lessons on comedy every day—even from newcomers.

"That's why I thoroughly enjoyed myself when I joined [the comedy revue] 'Rock da Vote' at the Music Museum. We had five repeats. It was a lot of fun working with them," she says of co-stars Jon Santos, Candy Pangilinan, John Lapus, Chokoleit and Pooh.

Tomas first worked with Pooh in her show directed by Andrew de Real and held at the Tavern on the Square two years ago. "He was a hit then. I was impressed," she recalls.

As early as then, she knew Pooh would make it big. "I like his brand of comedy. Relaxed *lang*. Not OA (overacting). *Suave*. The

LEARNING/ G2



POOH as Poohcquiao

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Ticket Price THX: P160 130 Indie Sine : 100 632-9116

1 FANTASTIC FOUR • THX
1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30

2 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 FANTASTIC FOUR
11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

4 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:30 2:30 4:30 6:30 8:30

5 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

6 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

7 MEET the ROBINSONS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

8 indieSine: BIG TIME
1:30 3:45 6:00 8:15

9 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

10 OCEAN'S 13
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

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2 MEET the ROBINSONS 12:30 2:50
BORDERTOWN 5:10 7:30 10:00

3 FANTASTIC FOUR
10:30 12:40 2:50 5:00 7:10 9:20

4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

5 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:00 2:10 4:20 6:30 8:40

6 FANTASTIC FOUR
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

7 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
11:15 2:50 6:25 10:00

METRO EAST
Ticket Price: P100 / P110 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 MEET the ROBINSONS
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 9:00

2 FANTASTIC FOUR
1:00 3:05 5:10 7:15

3 FANTASTIC FOUR
11:00 1:00 3:05 5:10 7:15 9:20

4 OCEAN'S 13
1:05 3:35 6:10 9:00

5 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
11:30 2:40 5:50 9:00

6 BORDERTOWN 11:30 2:40 5:50 9:00
FANTASTIC FOUR 4:00 6:00 8:00

7 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:30 2:30 4:30 6:30 8:30

8 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
1:15 3:50 6:25 9:00

NOVALICHES
Ticket Price: P90 / P100 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
3 OCEAN' 13
4 SILIP
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 MEET the ROBINSONS

PIONEER
Ticket Price: P100 / P110 687-5378

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
10:30 1:00 3:30 6:00 8:30

2 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00

3 OCEAN'S 13
12:25 3:10 5:55 8:40

4 MEET the ROBINSONS
1:40 4:00 6:20 8:40

STA. ROSA
Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907.

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 28 WEEKS LATER
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
4 SILIP
5 FANTASTIC FOUR

LIPA
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2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 WHISPER
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
5 28 WEEKS LATER

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1 ZODIAC
2 MEET the ROBINSONS
3 SILIP
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 FANTASTIC FOUR

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2 OCEAN'S 13
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

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2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 ZODIAC
4 OCEAN'S 13
5 SILIP
6 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?

STARMILLS
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1 OCEAN'S 13
2 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
4 SILIP
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 FANTASTIC FOUR

BACOLOD
Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 MEET the ROBINSONS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 RESERVE
5 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
6 OCEAN'S 13

ILOILO
Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50 (033) 336-8070

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2 WHISPER
3 OCEAN'S 13
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
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6 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3

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T-REX 11:30AM 1:00PM 4:30PM
Admission Prices: P 200
ANT BULLY 2:30PM 6:00PM
Admission Prices: P 250
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 OCEAN'S 13
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
5 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
6 BLACKOUT/ SHREK 3

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FANTASTIC FOUR
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633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
3 BORDERTOWN
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 OCEAN'S 13
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 FANTASTIC FOUR
8 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
9 BLACKOUT
10 SILIP
11 FANTASTIC FOUR
12 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 OCEAN'S 13
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 BLACKOUT
8 BORDERTOWN
9 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
10 FANTASTIC FOUR
11 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
12 SILIP

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 OCEAN'S 13
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
6 BLACKOUT
7 FANTASTIC FOUR
8 SHREK 3
9 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
10 SILIP
11 BORDERTOWN
12 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 OCEAN'S 13
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
5 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
6 SILIP
7 FANTASTIC FOUR
8 SHREK 3
9 BLACKOUT
10 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 OCEAN'S 13
4 BLACKOUT
5 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
6 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 SILIP
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 BLACKOUT
6 OCEAN'S 13
7 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
8 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
9 BORDERTOWN

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 OCEAN'S 13
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
3 BLACKOUT
4 OCEAN'S 13
5 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 SHREK 3
8 FANTASTIC FOUR
9 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
10 SILIP
11 FANTASTIC FOUR
12 BORDERTOWN

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 SILIP
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 BLACKOUT
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 BLACKOUT
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

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2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 SILIP
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
7 OCEAN'S 13
8 BLACKOUT

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
6 OCEAN'S 13

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

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SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 OCEAN'S 13.
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
5 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
6 SILIP

SM CIY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 WHISPER

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
2 OCEAN'S 13
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 BORDERTOWN
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
2 BLACKOUT
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 OCEAN'S 13
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 SHREK 3
5 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
6 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
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2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 OCEAN'S 13
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

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SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 WHISPER
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
5 OCEAN'S 13
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 RESERVED
8 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 LUCKY YOU
6 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
7 OCEAN'S 13
8 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
4 OCEAN'S 13

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Discove

FILMMAKING HAS BECO so popular that a new ta search show, "On the Lot," been produced to discover reward the best new direc writers in cinema. Thousa of applicants submitted t short films for considera by topnotch film people, chose 50 of the most pro ing writer-directors to tr mentor and evaluate.

The evaluation proc came in the form of t designed to determine, just the semi-finalists' ent, but also their abilit work with others—an portant considerati since filmmaking is a tinctly communal activi

The first test was "pit ing"—the unique ability filmmakers to colorf talk about their movie ject and effectively "sel to prospective producer

The measure

If investors end "green-lighting" your ject, that proves you're effective "pitcher." If t end up sitting on t hands and refuse to you any money to p your project into prod tion, you've just pitc yourself into oblivion!

Film veterans like **Ga Marshall** and **Carrie F** er listened to one pitch ter another and most them turned out to duds. Some otherwise standing filmmak couldn't articulate t ideas clearly and qui lost heart.

Others acted up a st but didn't do much bet their over-the-top "per mances" shifted the fo away from the freshr and soundness of the c

---

Learnin

thing is, though he's underplaying it, he's still effective."

She acknowledges that she learns from the young ones. "Just by observing how they work, I learn a lot. You should never stop honing your craft. In fact, I now enjoy watching more than performing."

She tries to catch fresh talents in comedy bars like The Library. "I am planning to join Library's 22nd anniversary shows from the 15th to the 20th of this month," she says.

Hosting shows

Tomorrow, she will co-host a concert entitled "Time and Transformation" at the Araneta Coliseum, organized by Brahma Kumaris.

"I am interested in the group's peace advocacy; it's right up my alley," she says. "I've been to the BK center in Tagaytay—it's so serene."

She is looking forward to visiting the BK main campus in Rajasthan, saying, "I've always wanted to visit India."

Later this month, she is London-bound to visit her grandchildren, and then to New York to see her son Robin. Teysi, who is married to British marine biologist Roger Pullin, has three grandkids, courtesy of stepdaughter Alice Squires.

"Tom is two years old and twins Isabel and Hope are a year old," Teysi says.

She is currently at work on an indie film, James Arnold Ladioray's

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ring the best of the filmmaking lot

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

cepts they were pitching—so, no "sale."

The most effective pitchers turned out to be creative thinkers who spoke well but kept their eye on the ball and didn't allow their "performance" to run away with the pitch. Alas, only a few contestants possessed this combination of attitudes and aptitudes.

Next, the new filmmakers were grouped together into different production teams and instructed to shoot a short film together, with each member of the team given a sequence to direct. Here, the issue was the team members' ability to work harmoniously, productively together. Many fell short of the preferred standard.

This came as no surprise, since they didn't know each other, had never worked together before, came from different and even clashing backgrounds, and were used to being in charge of their projects.

Expectedly, tempers flared, issues of territoriality, and one-upmanship surfaced, and the test quickly separated the team players from the egocentric artists.

As each test was put in play, some semi-finalists were eliminated. It's still early days for the new reality show, but the hope is that its final phases will feature the best of the lot doing their best work, so the winner(s) will make full use of the big break promised by the program, come up with "graduation" films that fulfill their makers' cinematic promise.

'Cute' on video

The hit comedy, "Ang Cute ng Ina Mo," is now on video. Wenn Deramas directs the AiAi delas Alas starrer, which also topbills Anne Curtis and Luis Manzano.

'Moonlane Gardens'

Orange & Lemons' latest album, "Moonlane Gardens," was unveiled last June 8 at Odyssey, Megamall. Its carrier single, "Ang Katulad Mong Walang Katulad," already occupies the No. 3 slot on the charts, indicating that the new album is finding favor with music fans.

JON Santos, L, and Candy Pangilinan

g from . . .

From page G1

"2,999," about Imelda Marcos' 3,000 pairs of shoes.

She is not playing La Imeldific in the movie. "I re-applied for the role of [lead character] Marvin Agustin's mom. Imelda will be played by a gay comic," she reveals.

Earlier, she portrayed the mother of a lesbian in the Cinema One entry "Rome and Juliet."

On TV, she top-bills the GMA 7 sitcom "Bahay Mo Ba 'To." "This week," she says excitedly, "I'm playing a June bride."

She notes that the show's stars are "like a family." When co-star Tiya Pusit's left eye was blinded, Teysi recalls, the entire cast chipped in for medicine.

"I referred her to a good doctor," Teysi says. "I admire her strength."

Recounts Tiya Pusit, "Teysi woke up early to bring me to the hospital."

Teysi often says she has become more open to other people and generous with her time and talent.

Constant donor

She supports Community and Family Services International, an NGO that builds schools in Mindanao, as well as a Pasay-based group for out-of-school youths.

"I regularly give away old costumes to other comics," she adds. "I donated a lot to PETA (Philippine Educational Theater Association) and to Joonee Gamboa's Barasoain Kalinangan Foundation Inc. theater group."

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1	FANTASTIC 4	12:20, 2:40, 5:00 7:20, 9:40	G
2	FANTASTIC 4	12:50, 3:10, 5:30 7:50, 10:10	R-13
3	FANTASTIC 4	1:20, 3:40, 6:00 8:20, 10:50	G
4	OCEAN'S THIRTEEN	12:10, 2:45, 5:35 8:25, 11:05	PG-13

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 FANTASTIC FOUR - RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER (GP) 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
2 FANTASTIC FOUR - RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER (GP) 12.00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9.00
3 FRENCH FILM FEST MTRCB GP/PG-13/PG-13/GP 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30
4 OCEAN'S 13 MTRCB PG-13 1:35, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
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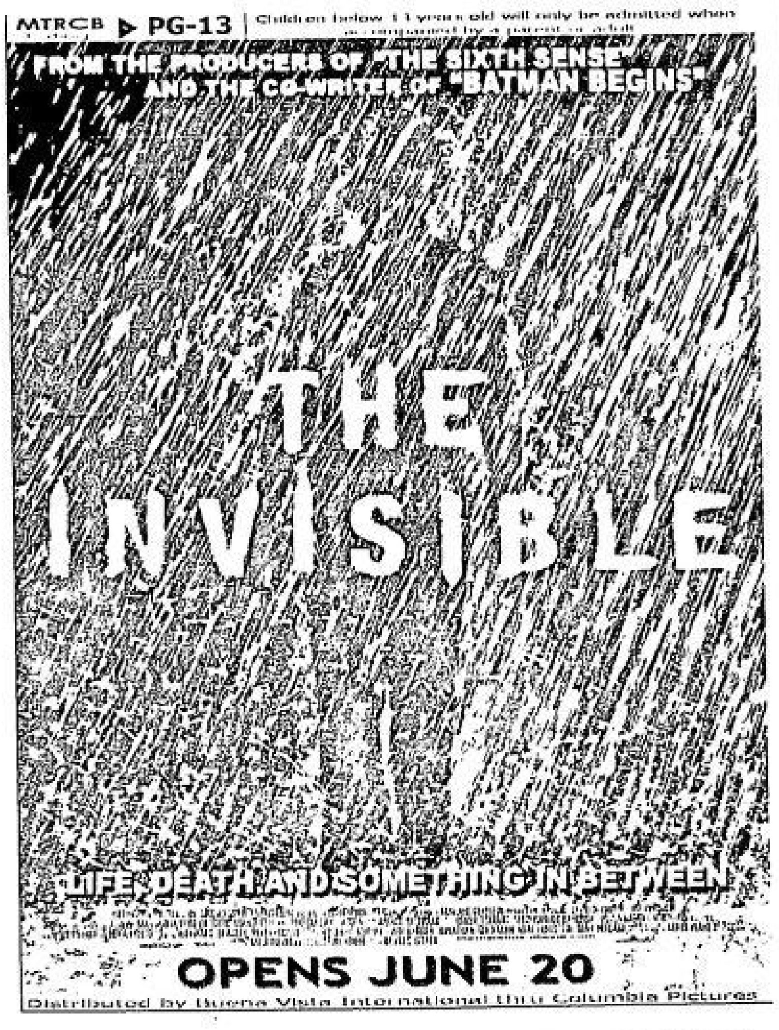

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CINEMA 5 FANTASTIC FOUR 10:20, 12:50, 3:20, 5:50, 8:20, 10:50 GP
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MUSIC MUSEUM	August 24 & 25, 2007	Ogie Alcasid & Regine Velasquez	8:00 PM
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS	June 22, 29, 2007 August 8-9, 15-16, 22-23, 29-30	Drag - Ons Cerrudo Classico ... Classic	10:00 PM 8:00 PM

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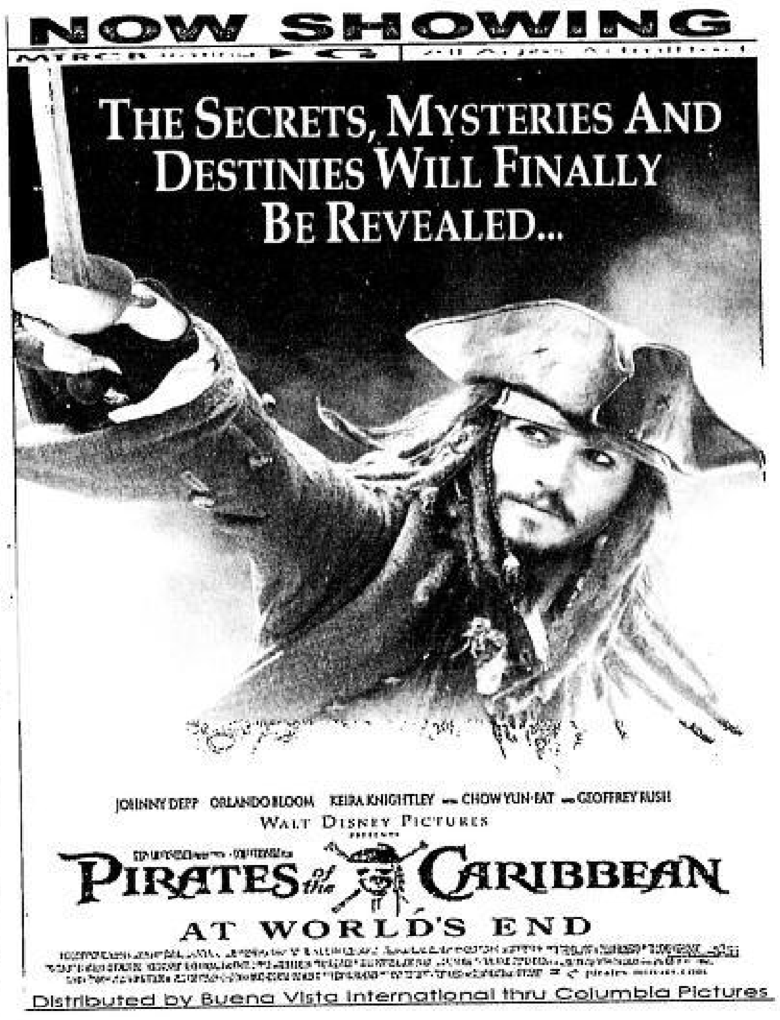
FANTASTIC FOUR: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER G 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30	MEET THE ROBINSONS G 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35	FANTASTIC FOUR: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER G 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE



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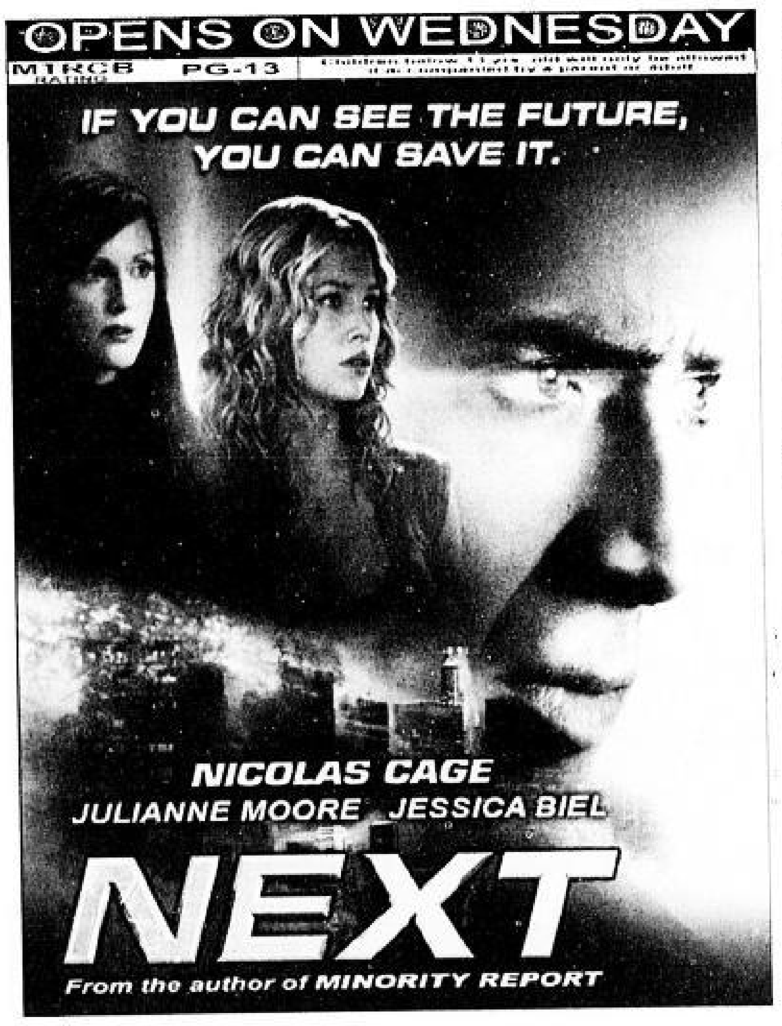

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OCEAN'S THIRTEEN

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2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 SILIP

Center Mall Cinema
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1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 SILIP
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 OCEAN'S THIRTEEN

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 SILIP
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
2 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
3 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
4 (DOLBY) OCEAN'S THIRTEEN

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266160
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) SILIP
5 RESERVED

metropolis star cinema
www.ticketthrofty.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 SILIP
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 BORDERTOWN

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN / OCEAN'S -13
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4

THEATRES
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 SILIP
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 FANTASTIC FOUR

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 SILIP
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 WHISPER
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 BORDERTOWN
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 OCEAN'S THIRTEEN
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 FANTASTIC FOUR
8 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
9 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
10 SHREK THE THIRD

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 28 WEEKS LATER / LUCKY YOU
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 PIREATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9041927
1 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
2 (DOLBY) PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 SILIP
2 LUPE
3 NAGAAPOY NA DAGAT
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
2 AKIN KA NGAYON GABI
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT
5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 SILIP

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 SILIP
2 28 WEEKS LATER
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 OCEAN'S THIRTEEN
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 MR. BEAN'S HO;IDAY
4 SILIP

Berma Cinema
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2 THE FRUIT IS SWEELING

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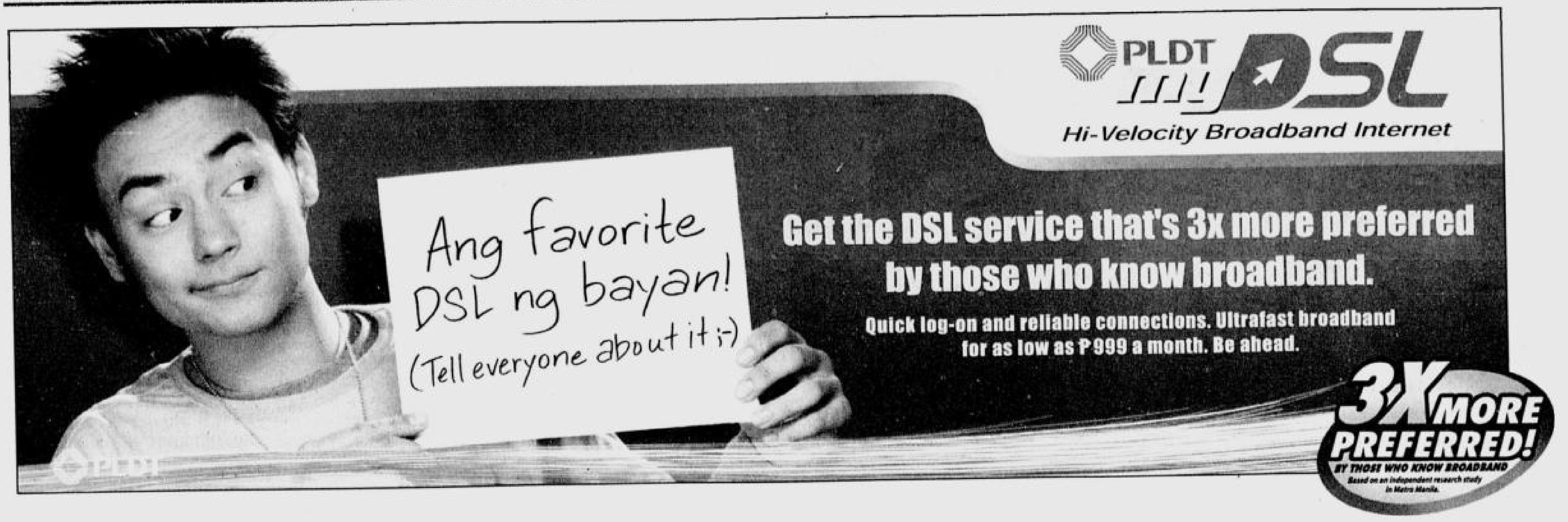
GMA
Kapuso ng bawat Pilipino

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) **or email us at** pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph **Website:** www.inquirer.net/entertainment



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EDU MANZANO

Tale of two dads

Marinel R. Cruz and Bayani San Diego Jr.

YOU WILL AGREE WITH ME when I say that if we fail as parents, no amount of money can make up for it," says actor-TV host Edu Manzano, father to Luis, 26; Adi, 14; and Enzo, 12.

The chair of the Optical Media Board swears that his children's welfare is his priority.

He explains: "All of us are in pursuit of eternal wealth. At some point, we all became slaves to money. I appeal to all fathers to make time for your kids. Hug them, don't forget to say you love them. It doesn't mean that if your children are grown up, you don't need to express your love."

> One would die for his kids, the other is learning to breathe again

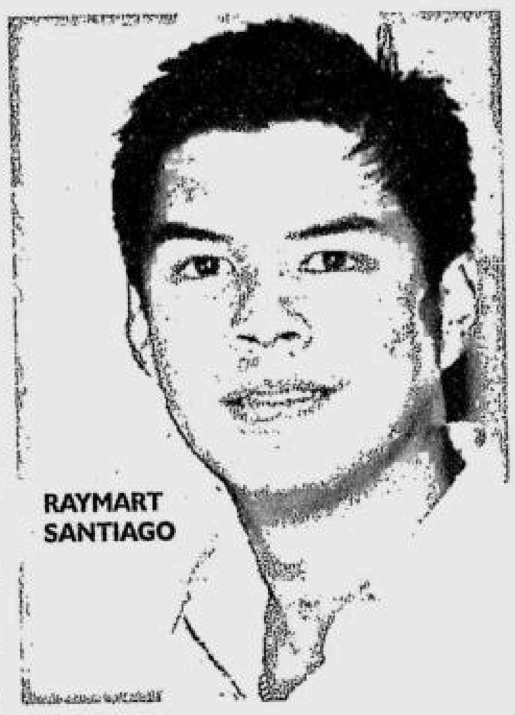
Edu claims that he still holds hands with his 12-year-old when they go walking. He says he kisses and hugs Luis when they see each other. "As for my daughter, I told her that 14 is not the right time to entertain suitors. I will allow her to accept visitors at age 45."

Luis is Edu's son with movie actress and Batangas governor Vilma Santos; Adi (Amanda Danielle) and Enzo (Lorenzo Eduardo) with Rina Samson, not a show biz personality.

Edu adds: "I will give my life for my children. The person I will choose to share the rest of my life with should accept this."

But he has no plans of expanding his family at

TALE/ H2



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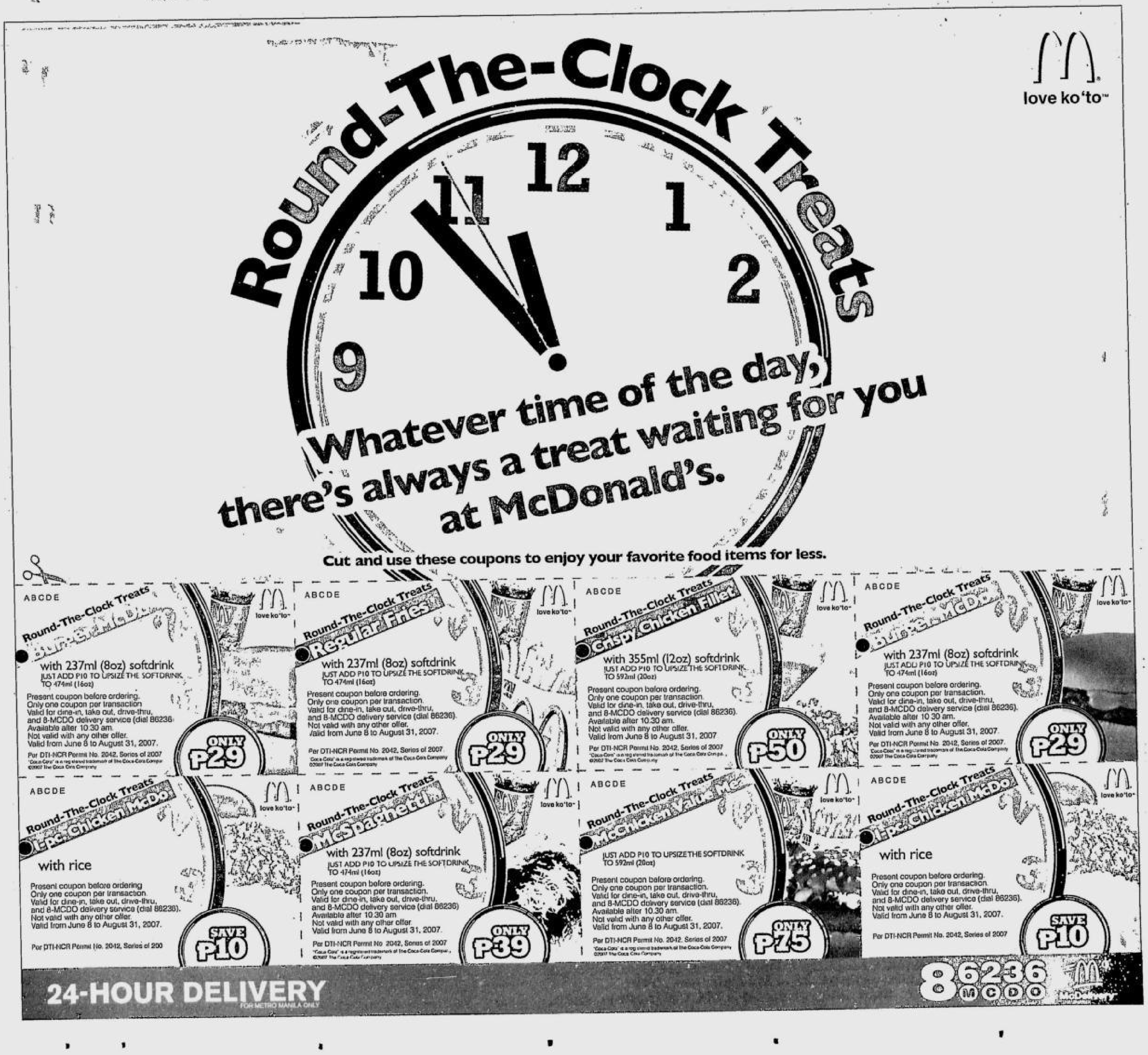

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Try 'beauty tourism'

SHARING a feline friend (from L): Veronica Turla, East Coast USA; Maylinn Storbakken, Norway; Jacqueline Rodriguez, San Fernando Valley, USA; Eunice Escarez, Arizona, USA; Shane Padamada, San Diego.

Mutya ng Pilipinas finds an advocacy

By Armin Adina

THE LAUNCH OF THIS YEAR'S Mutya ng Pilipinas pageant at the Subic Yacht Club on June 7 came with a renewed commitment.

"We wanted an advocacy that would make us different from other tilts," Mutya ng Pilipinas Inc. president Roberto de Venecia told INQUIRER Entertainment.

The pageant is in its 39th year.

"Mutya can promote a Philippine 'beauty tourism'—that is, to project, through the contest, everything beautiful about the Philippines."

According to the Mutya executive, one of the major changes to be implemented includes having a "host locale" outside Metro Manila.

This year's Mutya is co-presented by the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, with all major activities set within the Greater Subic Freeport Area, which also includes Olongapo City and the provinces of Zambales and Bataan.

"The radical changes in Mutya are meant to show that, to a certain extent, the Philippines is a cosmopolitan center," de Venecia explained. "Mutya will be focused on tourism, fashion, social responsibility and of course, beauty pageantry."

Why not, indeed?

Mutya has been accepting participants from overseas who are of Filipino descent. "*May Filipino blood sila, bakit hindi mo ipagmamalaki?*" de Venecia said. He said he was proud that outgoing Mutya Kirby Ann Basken represented Norway in the recent Miss Universe pageant in Mexico City.

Basken was sent by the Filipino community in Norway to last year's local pageant. De Venecia believes that Basken and other foreign-based candidates (nine this year), will be perfect tourism ambassadors for RP.

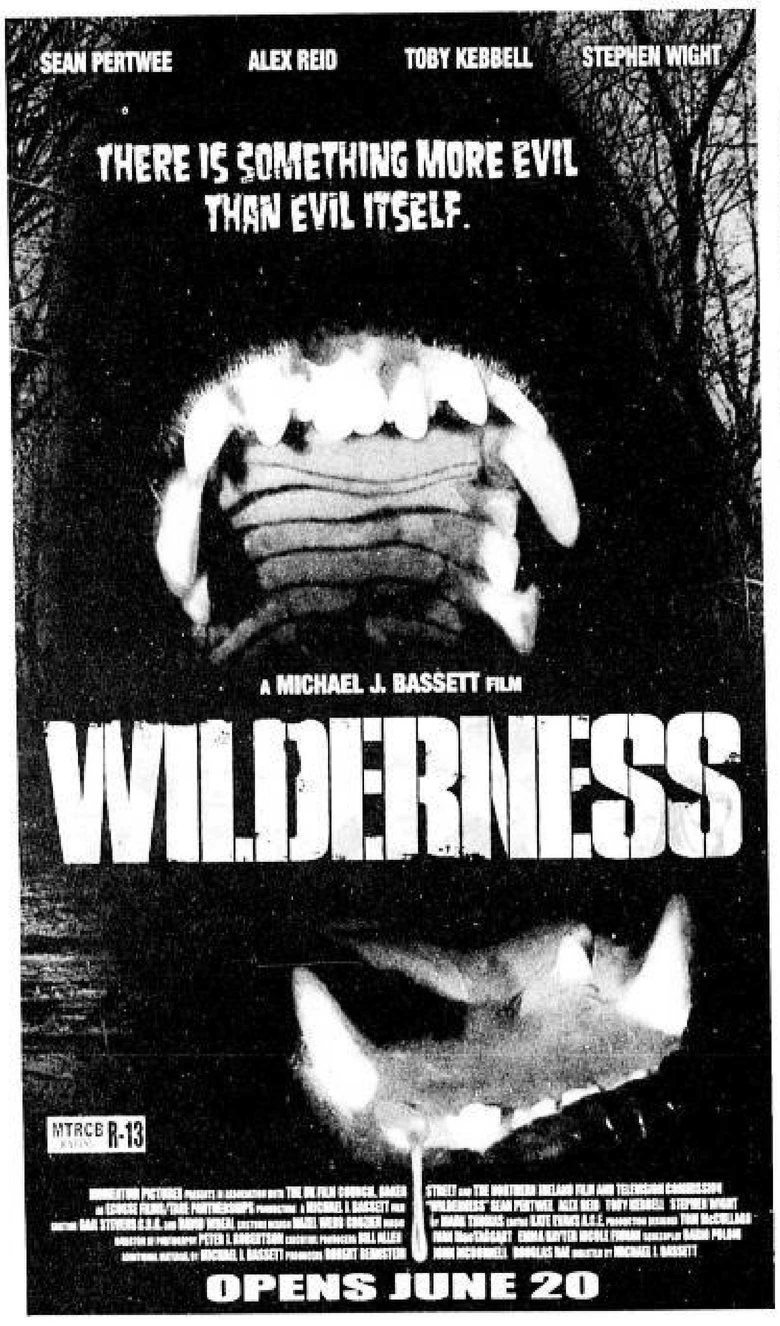
"Part of the prize package is an exposure trip to the Philippines," he noted. "We hope they will invite people from their home countries to visit the country's tourist spots."

De Venecia admitted that he was disappointed with the Department of Tourism for its lack of support.

"The DOT, and even the PTA (Philippine Tourism Authority), have either turned down or ignored our invitation to support the pageant," he said. "And we're not even asking for funds."

To expand the Mutya tourism campaign, three major titlists will be crowned this year—Mutya ng Pilipinas-Asia Pacific International, Mutya ng Pilipinas-Tourism International and the latest addition, Mutya ng Pilipinas-Overseas Communities.

The 2007 Mutya ng Pilipinas pageant will be held at the Olongapo City Convention Center on June 22. It will be telecast over the ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC) on July 1.



ROUNDUP

Ultra-rich celebs

NEW YORK—OPRAH WINFREY LEADS A list of the world's most influential celebrities, with earnings of $260 million dollars from her vast media empire, according to Forbes' magazine's annual list of powerful celebrities.

The top ranking is based on income over the past 12 months as well as web references, press clippings, broadcast mentions and major magazine covers devoted to the celebrity, Forbes said on its website.

"Only a combination of earnings and sizzle will land a celebrity a coveted spot on our Celebrity 100," the magazine wrote.

Winfrey, 53, reportedly has a net worth of at least $1.5 billion dollars from her production company, magazine and television show.

Three veteran pop and rock music stars finished in the top 10, with Madonna in third place, the elderly but still bankable Rolling Stones in fourth place and 60-year-old Elton John in seventh.

More Hollywood actors made the list this year, with Brad Pitt in fifth place, Johnny Depp in sixth and Tom Cruise slipping from the number one spot to eighth place.

Fathers' Day on 'ASAP'

Today, "ASAP '07" celebrates Fathers' Day.

Gab Valenciano, UD4 and Star Magic's roster of dancers perform with Gary V, while the Champions sing to the music of the The Carpenters in "ASAP Music Room Presents the Music (Na Paborito ni Daddy)."

Cool dads will headbang in "ASAP Banda Republic's" jamming session with alternative bands Rocksteddy and Orange and Lemons.

Also, PBB fans are in store for a treat with the sizzling dance numbers featuring Season 2 housemates.

JEAN Dujardin and Bérénice Béjo in "OSS 117"

Zany spy spoof

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

ONE OF THE 12TH FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL's featured films, "OSS 117: le Caire, Nid d'espions (Cairo, Nest of Spies)," is a hit parody of the James Bond series of movies. Set in 1955, the story successfully pokes fun at old espionage-heavy films and TV shows by presenting a blundering protagonist, Hubert Bonisseur de la Bath, a.k.a. Agent OSS 117 (Jean Dujardin).

Unlike other dashing agent heroes, this alphanumeric-codenamed operative manages to get the job done mostly due to well-timed lucky breaks. The super-spy is really an idiot, making this rowdy, subtitled romp especially memorable.

Sent to Egypt after the mysterious murder of his friend and fellow undercover agent Jack Jefferson (Philippe Lefebvre), OSS 117 takes over the deceased fellow's cover poultry business and tries to get to the bottom of things. Helping him adapt is the sultry secretary Larmina El Akmar Betouche (Berenice Bejo), who soon discovers that it's a regrettable task.

OSS 117 wastes no time in making rash, politically incorrect statements about the country's culture, desert terrain, and so on. He's an infuriating jerk, but the viewer can't wait to see what he says or does next because he's a cleverly written caricature.

Aside from the character being clueless, the humor draws from the contrived but amusing situations he bumbles into. The buffoon is complemented by other strange characters and scenarios that recalls leaps in logic commonplace in spy games.

He's exaggeratedly portrayed as the perennial ladies' man. A female foe even requests for intimate favors (he complies of course!).

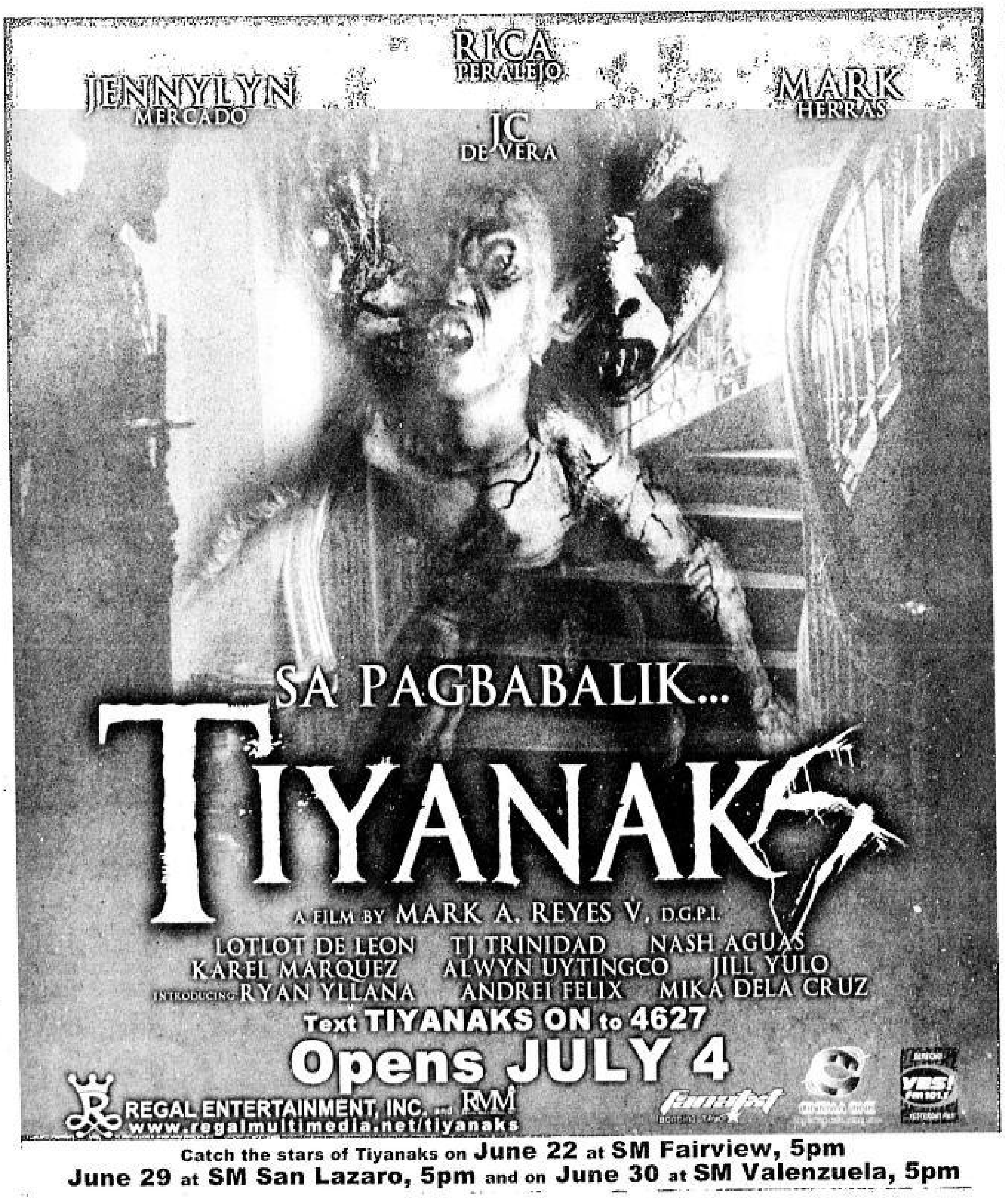
The strangely charming Dujardin looks and feels goofy enough as the title character, and the actor pulls off a long list of required absurdities. OSS 117's awful perceptions and treatment of native Egyptians' customs and rituals display his ignorance/arrogance, but there's another side to him.

Heavy implication

It's heavily implied that he may be harboring repressed feelings for a male friend, as suggestively revealed in some one-sided flashbacks. He awkwardly denies this, of course, when people ask. The script also hints at this angle with a double entendre—he brags that his gun's been used to interrogate men and women alike.

"OSS 117" is a distinctly quirky film whose inanities are timeless and appreciable. It would be quite interesting to see how far the concept—and the laughs—can be pushed and developed in a sequel.

The film fest's Manila venue was Shangri-La Plaza. It runs from June 22 to 24 at Ayala Center Cebu. Admission is free.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KAREL MARQUEZ ALWYN UYTINGCO JILL YULO
INTRODUCING RYAN YLLANA ANDREI FELIX MIKA DELA CRUZ
Text TIYANAKS ON to 4627
Opens JULY 4
REGAL ENTERTAINMENT, INC. and RMM
www.regalmultimedia.net/tiyanaks

Catch the stars of Tiyanaks on June 22 at SM Fairview, 5pm
June 29 at SM San Lazaro, 5pm and on June 30 at SM Valenzuela, 5pm

Tale of two dads

From page H1

the moment, he says. "I like things the way they are."

He is currently occupied as "official and permanent" host of "Pilipinas Game KNB," having replaced Kris Aquino.

"We couldn't think of anyone else. He relates to the contestants really well," says Alou Almaden, head of the show's business unit, during a press con.

Edu reveals that his first taping day was a disaster, having had only two days to familiarize himself with the format. "That's why I was pretty stiff during my first month," said the former host of the now defunct game show, "Weakest Link."

Prior to the announcement of his taking over, Edu says, he received a text message from Kris that said: "I know I'm leaving the show in excellent hands."

"I keep that message as a reminder to give my best," he says. "If Kris tells me today that she misses the show and wants it back, I will gladly give it back to her."

Practice makes perfect

This dad is taking Birthing Classes.

Raymart Santiago is sharing in wife Claudine Barretto's "infanticipating" experience by studying La Maze and attending the six-week Birthing Classes facilitated by Rome Kanapi.

"I want to learn more about the feelings my wife is going through," he explains. "Apart from breathing exercises, we learn about labor pains, contractions, what to put in the bags we will take to the hospital."

As early as now, a month away from Claudine's due date, Raymart is packing the bags.

They've also chosen a name for the baby boy—Rodrigo Santino. They plan to induce Rodrigo's birth to coincide with their birthday. Both Raymart and Claudine were born on July 20.

They've prepared their three-year-old "eldest" Sabina Natasha for the coming of Rodrigo, he says. "She talks to her mom's tummy, telling Rodrigo: 'Come out *na*!' She's very excited."

Raymart points out that taking care of Sabina has primed him well for fathering. "I had three years of practice."

He is guarding Claudine like a hawk these days—especially since she recently had to deal with controversies involving sisters Gretchen and Marjorie. **(See related items on page H6.)**

"As much as possible, we avoid bad news, but we sometimes can't help talking about them," Raymart laments. "She was very much affected by the intrigues. She complained of stomach pains. *Tumitigas daw ang tiyan niya.* (Her stomach felt hard.)"

On a more positive note, he has gotten used to playing father to neophyte Alynna Asistio on the GMA 7 sitcom "Who's Your Daddy Now?"—which also stars Joey Marquez.

"Alynna is now at ease with us," he says. "As for Joey, I'm so comfortable with him. We've been working together for 12 years now."

Humperdinck's 40th anniversary tour starts here

ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK, THE LEGendary crooner who gave the world "Release Me," "Can't Take My Eyes Off You," "The Last Waltz," "There Goes My Everything," "After the Lovin'," "Quando, Quando, Quando," and other timeless classics is mounting his 40th anniversary world tour. His first stop in Asia is the Araneta Coliseum, on Aug. 19.

The concert is dubbed "Engelbert Humperdinck: The 40th Anniversary Tour."

Ticket prices are P5,250, P4,725, P3,675, P2,625, P1,050, and P473. Call 911-5555.

Sarah at the Big Dome

The teen pop star projects a more mature persona in "Sarah Geronimo in Motion," her second major concert, on July 16 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Sarah will dance and donslip into daring costumes, too.

The concert has the respected pianist-arranger Marc Lopez as musical director, with a cameo appearance by arranger Louie Ocampo.

Sarah, who first broke into the scene by bagging the "Star For a Night" grand prize, has recorded two albums—"Popstar: Dream Come True," which sold more than 180,000 copies, and "Sweet Sixteen," which went gold in just one week.

"Sarah Geronimo in Motion" goes to the Expo Filipino, Pampanga on July 21.

ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK

SHOW TIME

JED MADELA

Anti-drug concert

"Rock To Save A Life," a concert with an anti-drug theme, featuring Sony-BMG Pinoy bands Cueshe, 6cyclemind, Callalily, Moonstar 88 and Craeons, is set on June 26, 7 p.m., at Hard Rock Cafe in Makati.

The show is a campaign to educate the youth on the dangers of drug use. It was inspired by the song "How To Save A Life" by the pop alternative band The Fray, which was adapted as a soundtrack in the TV series "Grey's Anatomy."

Buyers of The Fray's "How To save A Life" special edition CD at Music One outlets will get two free invites to the concert.

Bridal fashion show

Actor-singer-artist Ernie Garcia was the special guest in "Perfect Beginnings," a bridal fashion show yesterday at the Philippine International Convention Center, CCP Complex.

Ernie sang during the main bride model's walk; he also did an actual painting of the bride model on stage.

Album tour

Jed Madela is promoting his new album, "Only Human" (Universal Records), with a tour that kicks off today, 5 p.m., at SM Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Pantomime

After entertaining patrons with a street magician recently, Starmall Edsa-Shaw presents a pantomime artist today and a towering stilt walker on June 24.

Magical Dad's Day

It's a magical triple treat for all dads this Fathers' Day today at San Mig Pub and Restaurant in Alabang Town Center.

San Mig Pub will entertain the brood with the magic tricks of popular American master magician Prof. Bill Ehlers.

San Mig Pub is at the second level of Corte delas Palmas, Alabang Town Center, Muntinlupa City.

Call 807-3595 or 842-0776.

Tomorrow

Art Manuntag at RJTV Bar, Bel-Air, Makati. Call 899-1658

Family Affair at Merk's Bar Bistro, Greenbelt 3

June 19

Dale Adriatico at RJTV Bar, Bel-Air, Makati. Call 899-1658

Aretha and the Souled Out Band at Merk's Bar Bistro, Greenbelt 3

June 20

Paul Toledo and Gabby Cristobal at RJTV Bar, Bel-Air, Makati. Call 899-1658

Eddie K, Romy Posadas, Roger Herrera, Popoy Valmonte, Mar Dizon, Bo Razon, JJ Castañeda, Alvin Cornista and Richard Merk at Merk's Bar Bistro, Greenbelt 3

June 21

Catch A Rising Band featuring NATF and Breaking Silence at RJTV Bar, Bel-Air, Makati. Call 899-1658

CALLALILY

The Groove at Merk's Bar Bistro, Greenbelt 3

June 22

Ramon Jacinto and Moonstrucks at RJTV Bar, Bel-Air, Makati. Call 899-1658

Route 70 at Merk's Bar Bistro, Greenbelt 3

June 23

Sandwich and Urbandub at Leyte Park, Tacloban

Flintstones and the Gang at Merk's Bar Bistro, Greenbelt 3

SARAH GERONIMO

June 25

Art Manuntag at RJTV Bar, Bel-Air, Makati. Call 899-1658

Family Affair at Merk's Bar Bistro, Greenbelt 3

June 26

Dale Adriatico at RJTV Bar, Bel-Air, Makati. Call 899-1658

Aretha and the Souled Out Band at Merk's Bar Bistro, Greenbelt 3

June 27

Paul Toledo and Gabby Cristobal at RJTV Bar, Bel-Air, Makati. Call 899-1658

Eddie K, Romy Posadas, Roger Herrera, Popoy Valmonte, Mar Dizon, Bo Razon, JJ Castañeda, Alvin Cornista and Richard Merk at Merk's Bar Bistro, Greenbelt 3

June 28

Catch A Rising Band featuring NATF and Breaking Silence at RJTV Bar, Bel-Air, Makati. Call 899-1658

The Groove at Merk's Bar Bistro, Greenbelt 3

June 29

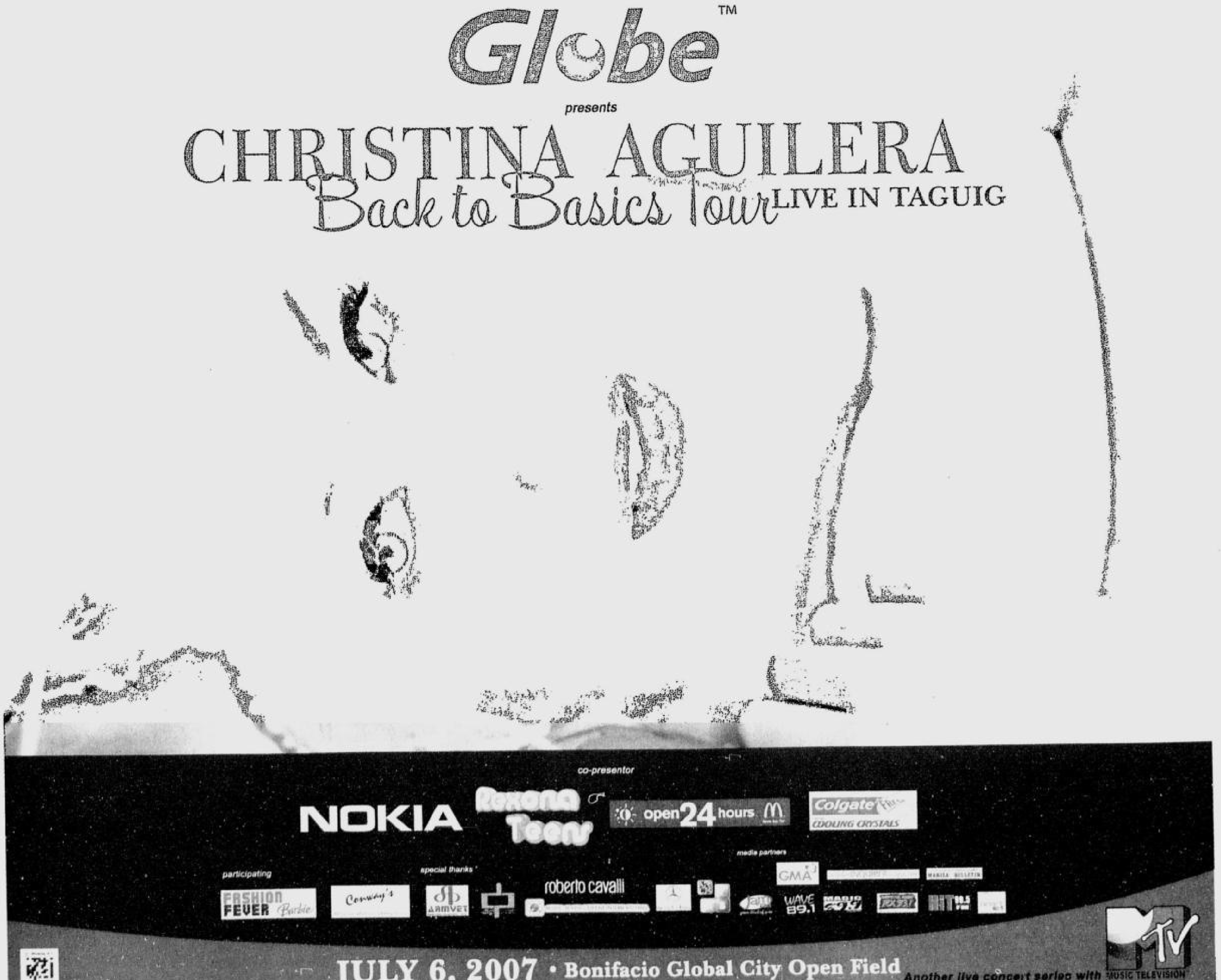
Freestyle at Mugen Bar, Metrowalk, Pasig

Ramon Jacinto and Moonstrucks at RJTV Bar, Bel-Air, Makati. Call 899-1658

Route 70 at Merk's Bar Bistro, Greenbelt 3

June 30

Flintstones and the Gang at Merk's Bar Bistro, Greenbelt 3



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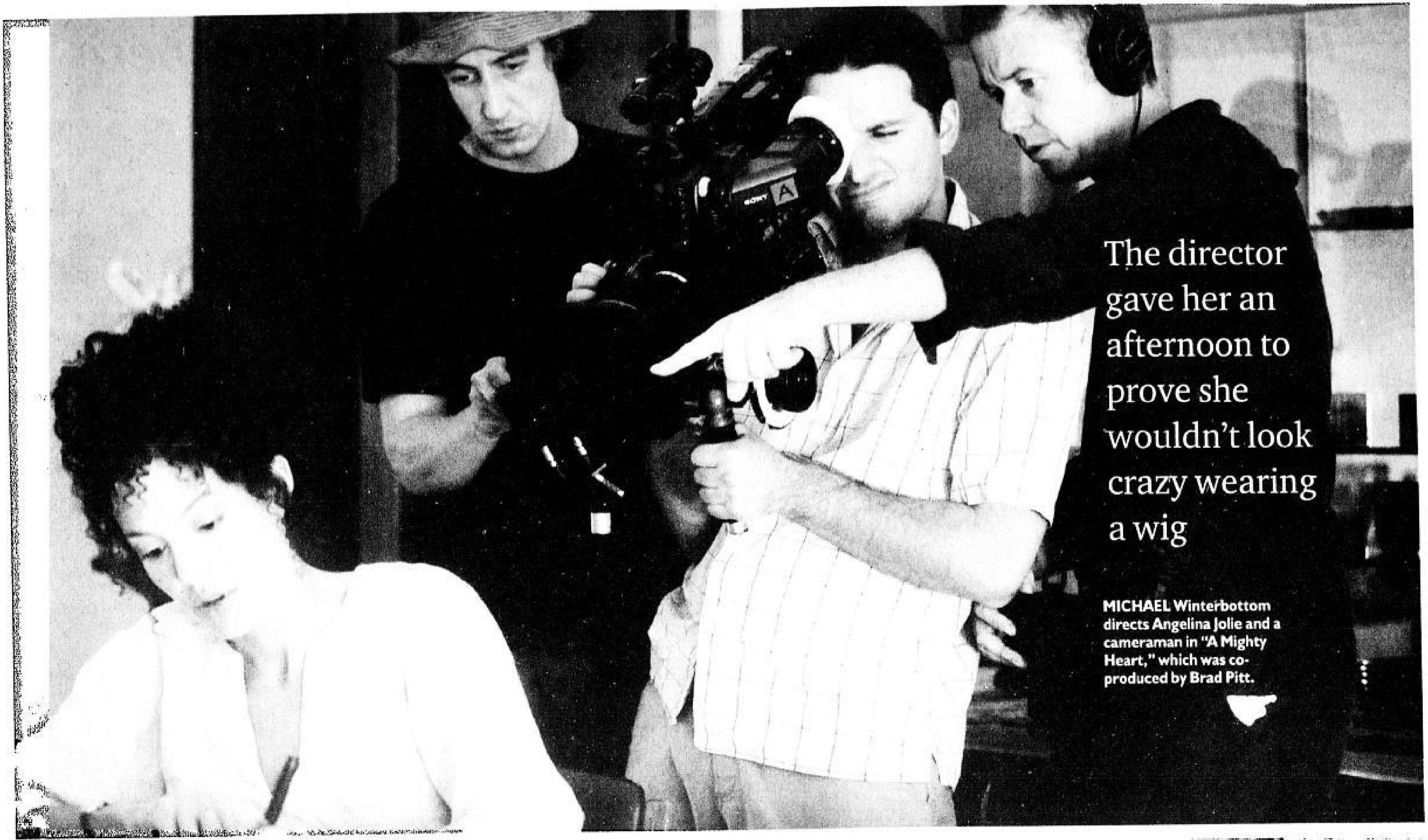

The director gave her an afternoon to prove she wouldn't look crazy wearing a wig

MICHAEL Winterbottom directs Angelina Jolie and a cameraman in "A Mighty Heart," which was co-produced by Brad Pitt.

Angelina Jolie now talks about Mariane Pearl

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—WILL SHE AND **Brad Pitt** continue adopting until they have, say, 10 or 15 kids?

"We love having children," **Angelina Jolie** said. One of the world's most famous mothers is one of the most admired as well. Today we continue running excerpts from a recent press con with Angelina where she gamely answered all the questions.

The actress stars in "A Mighty Heart," based on **Mariane Pearl's** memoir, "A Mighty Heart: The Brave Life and Death of My Husband Danny Pearl." She plays Mariane to **Dan Futterman's** Daniel Pearl, the South Asia Bureau chief of the Wall Street Journal who was researching a story on shoe bomber **Richard Reid** in Karachi when he disappeared and was eventually murdered. **Michael Winterbottom** directed the film.

As we mentioned on Friday, Angelina calls their son **Maddox** by the nickname, **Madd**. The other kids are **Pax, Zahara** and **Shiloh.**

Tell us about Mariane.

She is the reason I wanted to do this movie. When this happened many years ago, I remember watching the news, seeing her, being struck by her strength. As much as I think I'm a tolerant, understanding person, I couldn't understand how someone could, after what happened, talk about love, tolerance, dialogue and other people's suffering. How could someone become centered so quickly and see the bigger picture? When I met her and got to spend some time with her, I found her to be an extraordinary woman. She handles everything with an immense amount of grace and dignity. She's had a full life.

Mariane is just so full of love. I think that's what their (the Pearls') relationship symbolizes—two people so open to other cultures. They knew the dangers of becoming blind with hate. She rose above it. She has an amazing sense of humor as well. She's nutty, a great mom and woman.

Your pregnancy with Shiloh must have helped you portray Mariane, who was pregnant at the time the story took place.

I had just been through pregnancy. So I was highly aware of how beautiful that time should be for a woman, for the father and mother of the child. I remember so clearly now the moment of giving birth to my daughter and looking at Brad, the love in that room, the hope for the future. To really understand how much was taken away (Daniel's death), it was very haunting. To suffer as much as she did and then to have no self-pity, that is extraordinary.

I have become more tolerant, more open, by learning about her. The greatest thing that happened to me during this film is that I met a great friend. It was very bizarre that I met Mariane through playing her. She has a beautiful family and a great little boy. I feel blessed to know them as friends.

A couple of scenes showed you portraying Mariane chanting prayers as a refuge from her ordeal. Did you have conversations about Buddhism?

She has a beautiful shrine that I believe Danny built for her before he passed. I think her Buddhism was one of the reasons that she was able to think about the world around her and not focus on herself, on her own pain. It's probably one of the great things that helped her. It's also one of the things we realized we had in common—I am not a practicing Buddhist but I have a great interest and respect for Buddhism. I'm teaching my sons about it, about all religions, but especially what's relevant to their countries. With Madd, we visit monks when we're in Cambodia. It is something that Mariane and I talked about. I asked her questions for Madd, about shrines and meditating. I've learned to meditate and it's very helpful. It helps center me. Maybe in the future, especially with my kids, it might be nice to learn to really think outside yourself and look at the entire picture.

Have you showed the film to Danny's parents?

Yes, we were with the parents during a screening at the Museum of Tolerance. Throughout the making of this film, everybody involved kept saying, "If it doesn't come together right, we're not going to do it." Like if the right director doesn't come ... we didn't believe it would actually come together right. We sat down with Danny's parents. Dan Futterman went out to spend some time with them. We all carefully walked through this process, never saying something that was against the values that they felt their son represented.

Last night, we had a beautiful time with them at the Museum for the Danny Pearl Foundation. I am very grateful for their friendship, for their openness, for allowing us to have this experience. We wanted to stand together to present the film. There is no critic more important than Mariane and Danny's parents.

When you put on that wig for this movie, did you feel like a different person?

Michael (Winterbottom) shoots so freely so he said no wigs, no contacts, nothing. I said, but I have to try (a wig) and he said no. He gave me one afternoon to prove to him that I wouldn't look crazy. We were all terrified but when I put it on, it felt very strange ... but it worked. I saw Madd and I thought I'd scare him. I said, "Hi," and he said, "Hi, mom (laughter)."

The scene where you gave birth was powerful. Tell us what the set was like.

Doing the birth scene was kind of funny because (when I gave birth to Shiloh), I had a C-section so I didn't scream at all. Michael, the director, had to actually try to explain to me because he was with his wife when she had children. It was very funny to have a bunch of men around me explaining how a woman is in labor. We were in a hospital in India, on a floor where people weren't having children. It wasn't a baby floor so everybody was quiet in this real hospital. Suddenly I had to scream at the top of my lungs and (laughter) all these men were screaming to show me how to scream. We were all screaming back and forth at each other. It was really bizarre (laughter).

Mariane seems to be the silent, strong type. Are you, too?

People have often said to me about myself or the roles that I play, that I'm strong. I'm often surprised that people don't see me as an emotional person. Maybe they do more now. But for a long time, they thought I was tough or lacked emotion.

You travel all over the world for your humanitarian efforts. Can you talk about this?

I really love other parts of the world (laughing). It is one of the greatest gifts that we have today—that we're able to learn one another's languages and histories. So much is accessible to us now because of the ease of traveling. I go all around the world and spend time with people who are working hard every day and are very connected to their history—that's helpful to my soul.

You've once said that you'd rather be remembered as a humanitarian rather than as an actor.

I love being an actor. I love being creative. My mom was an artist; my dad and brother are artists. I love being able to tell a good story and entertain. [But] at the end of the day, when I die, [I'd wonder] what contributions I have made? If I've entertained, that's wonderful. But if I have actually been a part of saving a life or changing a law that's going to affect people in the future, their rights, children and countries, then clearly, that's more significant.

You're a global citizen. Do you foresee a future where more borders will disappear?

I do see myself as a citizen of the world. At the same time, I feel a certain sadness. There are so many languages that are disappearing. There are so many cultures that are becoming like other cultures. As much as I like that we can all be connected and share, it's sad when people lose who they originally are, when their culture is destroyed. We have a mixed-race family. But at the same time, my boys are very aware that they're Asian. They are learning their languages. My daughter is African. She knows it… I like that people are different. I think people should be prouder of who they are and not feel that they need to adjust and blend together.

Right now, your kids are little so you can bring them along wherever you go. How about when they start going to school? How will you protect them from the pitfalls of growing up with celebrity parents?

We are never going to stop traveling. I think the greatest education I can give my kids, especially because they are international children, is to keep them traveling. They can spend six months in Africa and then they come back to LA for a few months. Then they spend a few months in Asia or they go to live in Prague where they're going to school now. On the first morning they went to school there, they were fine and it wasn't unusual. When we're in Africa, they go to a local school with the bush kids. They're fine.

I think that just by showing them the world, understanding, tolerance and the beauty of different cultures, they're not getting stuck in this town. Because their parents are actors, I am cautious about raising them too much in the States where other kids would say, "I saw your parents' movie."

Madd is in the Lycee Francais which has branches around the world. The other kids are in International School so we can travel and they're on the same program.

So home is where the parents are.

Yes, home is where your family is. I'm sure at some point this will be their rebellion: They will just want to live in the suburbs and never travel (laughter).

MARIANE PEARL

Where does your empathy for the less fortunate come from?

Both my parents were very focused on aid and charity in their lives. I saw the joy my mom had in doing things for others. It was never like something she had to do. She had real joy.

Can you talk about the impact of the constant media glare on you and your family?

The reason we don't talk too much about it is because the more you focus on it, the more it becomes something in your life. A lot of times, our life is quiet—well, never quiet (laughter) but normal.

The only time [media scrutiny] affects us is if you're driving in the car with your kids and they say, "Mom, can I go to the park?" You've got time and you want to go but you're followed by a few cars. You just have to say no.

You just celebrated your birthday. On your kids' birthdays, do you talk to them about how you first met or saw them?

I talk to them about that usually on their birthdays. But we talk often about how we all came together. Madd and I always talk about the fateful day we met. I have yet to talk to Shiloh about it because she doesn't understand me at the moment (laughter). My mom always did that, too. She called me on the hour, the moment I was born to say this was when you were born.

There's a rumor going around in Europe that you will adopt another baby, and this time in the Czech Republic. How do you think the rumors started?

Because I adopt and I travel, people usually assume—they either say Brad's buying a house wherever he goes and I'm adopting a child wherever I go (laughter).

Do you see yourself with 10, 15 kids?

We love having children. There are certain kids we want to help through school. There are kids in our periphery we're involved with. In our home, it is all about how much we balance, making sure everybody has individual time. Right now, all four of them have daily, very special individual time. If they get old enough and if it starts to feel like we can fit more, that's how and when we are going to gauge how many more we can have.

Do you cook?

No. Brad would tell you I am one of the worst cooks in the world.

You now have an image as a humanitarian. But we remember when you won a Golden Globe and you jumped into the pool at the Beverly Hilton.

I blame all of you for that (laughter) because I was excited.

Is that wild Angelina gone?

I jumped into the pool because somebody dared me to. It's wonderful to have an award ceremony about your work. We can have a joyous evening and jump into a pool and laugh because that's what it can be. We don't have to keep our dresses perfectly clean. We should enjoy, be happy and free. It wasn't anything punk—it was true happiness and fun so hopefully, I still have that. I'll jump into many pools in the future.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.

'Pirates' censored for "vilifying Chinese"

DID YOU KNOW...

BEIJING—CHINA has censored part of the latest instalment of hit Hollywood movie "Pirates of the Caribbean" for "vilifying and defacing the Chinese," the official Xinhua news agency said on Friday.

The role of Hong Kong star Chow Yun-Fat, who plays pirate lord Captain Sao Feng, had been slashed in half to just about 10 minutes of screen time, the report said.

It cited local magazine The Popular Cinema as saying: "The captain played by Chow is bald, his face heavily scarred. He also has a long beard and long nails, whose image is still in line with Hollywood's old tradition of demonizing the Chinese."

Xinhua added: "Chinese censors also cut Chow's line, 'Welcome to Singapore' because it hints Singapore is a land of pirates."

It quoted Zhang Pimin, deputy head of the film bureau of the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television, as saying the cuts had been made "according to the country's relevant regulations on film censorship."

Reuters

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Angels

ANGEL OF MINE
ANGEL LOCSIN
AIZA MARQUEZ KETCHUP EUSEBIO PINKY AMADOR MALOU DE GUZMAN
MALOU CRISOLOGO KATRINA & BIANCA AGUILA
INTRODUCING EUNICE "CHARMING" LAGUSAD
DIRECTED BY GINA ALAJAR

DADDY'S ANGEL
MARVIN AGUSTIN
MS. JACLYN JOSE AND VALERIE CONCEPCION
DOMINIC OCHOA PAOLO PARAISO GERARD PIZARRAS
CARLO GONZALES ANGELA ANTONIO JOSEPH MARCELO
NICO ANTONIO ERIC ELEAZAR & NASH AGUAS
DIRECTED BY JOSE DANTES III

ANGEL OF LOVE
JENNYLYN MERCADO PATRICK GARCIA
MS. BOOTS ANSON ROA EMPRESS SCHUCK CHESKA IÑIGO
ALLAN PAULE KAREL MARQUEZ MARCO ALCARAZ
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MR BEAN'S HOLIDAY 1:50 / 3:50 / 5:50 / 7:50 / 9:50
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 3 12:00 / 3:20 / 6:40 / 10:00
PLATINUM CINEMA
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
SHREK 3 12:40 / 4:50 / 9:00
PAANO KITA IIBIGIN 12:10 / 2:35 / 5:00 / 7:25 / 9:50
FANTASTIC 4: SILVER SURFER 11:40 / 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00

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1 FANTASTIC 4: SILVER SURFER 12:50 / 3:10 / 5:30 / 8:10
2 BORDERTOWN 12:00 / 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 3 12:10 R6 / 1:50 / 5:10 / 8:30
4 SILIP 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
5 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN 12:15 R5 / 1:20 / 3:45 / 6:10 / 8:35
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G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	2 OCEAN'S 13	3 THX FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER GUARANTEED SEATS	4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END	5 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN	6 FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	7 FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 OCEAN'S 13	2 FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER GUARANTEED SEATS	3 OCEAN'S 13 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER GUARANTEED SEATS	5 FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER GUARANTEED SEATS		
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Barrettos, Bektases and associates

By the INQUIRER Entertainment Staff

OKAY, WE WROTE THAT HEAD THREE different ways until we decided that the hotter issue this week is the famous but verboten smooching.

If you think about it, and considering that the local movie industry has been sluggish at best, what we have here is a potential blockbuster... documentary! Take all that's happened in the Philippine entertainment scene during the last four months, from the time of **Kris, James** and **Hope**—titillating, isn't it?

There's no need for a script, just a masterful splicing of footages. And the stars could play themselves if there's any need for narrative sequencing.

Yilmazisms

One rollicking result of the battle of the Bektases is a list of one-liners churned out by Turkish businessman **Yilmaz Bektas**, most of them against estranged wife **Ruffa Gutierrez.**

Bektas could give Borat a run for gold bars.

Sample: "If Ruffa stand in front of God, He will be confused. She keep changing religion. One minute, she Catholic, then Muslim, then Christian. If boyfriend is Jewish, she turn Jewish."

Standing by Greta

In a press statement, **Gretchen Barretto** insisted that partner **Tonyboy Cojuangco**, is standing by her in spite of the scandalous kissing photos with **John Estrada.** "Overwhelmed by his endless love" is how she put it. A close associate of Cojuangco's confirms this, telling INQUIRER Entertainment, "Yes, he is supporting her."

Another executive has a slightly dissenting opinion: "He has always been non-confrontational. Remember, he kept mum throughout Gretchen's word war with his mother **Imelda** and with **Lani Mercado** (over **Bong Revilla**). He's not a fighter, whether in love or in business." Is inscrutability being mistaken here for magnanimity?

MARJORIE BARRETTO

PIA GUANIO

Claudine's rage

While we're on the subject, Gretchen's sister **Claudine Barretto**, very heavy with child, said in a TV interview: "I worry about my niece **Dominique** because she surfs the net. Why take [such] photos? Why save them in your cell phone?"

She is clearly blaming John Estrada who has admitted, that he owned the camera phone in question.

Claudine fumed, "I just pray I don't bump into him soon."

That's not likely to happen because, according to **Douglas Quijano**, John's manager, his troubled ward has just left for abroad. "It was his birthday last Thursday," Dougs told us. A bummer of a birthday.

Mum's the word

We sought **Janice de Belen**, John's ex-wife and the mother of his four children, to comment on the controversy.

In an *SMS*, Janice said, wisely: "I have nothing to say."

Bickering partners?

All's not well between ABS-CBN and Viva Films.

The two entertainment giants are reportedly blaming each other for the less-than-stellar box-office performance of their latest project, the **Regine Velasquez-Piolo Pascual** starrer "Paano Kita Iibigin." Matters are made worse by the fact that Viva's last project with rival network GMA 7 ("Till I Met You") was a hit. And it also starred Velasquez, but with **Robin Padilla.**

RUSHES

DIANA ZUBIRI

Twin secrets

This has been a long-kept secret in the biz: When she was a gullible teener, this pretty TV host was knocked up by a much-older action star. According to the grapevine, she quietly gave birth to twins in the US and went about her business as if nothing had happened.

Unholy alliance

If you are wondering why this producer has access to the stars of a certain TV channel, it's because a daughter once had an affair with a top executive of the network.

That's called unfair advantage.

***

Top of the tabloids

Top show biz stories in local tabloids this week (and why we are moved, if we are moved):

- Partner *ni* Claudine *sa pagiging ina*. (A corned beef brand *daw—ano ba 'yun?*)
- *Kumuha ng* kissing photo, *kilala ni* Gretchen.
- Gretchen Barretto, *umaming nakipaglaplapan kay* John. (That word again!)
- *Isyu kay* Ruffa, *tinalbugan ng laplapan nina* John *at* Greta.
- *Palasyo sa* Gretchen scandal: *Kung gusto niyong maging* wild, keep it private. (*O, ha?* Did the Bektases move Malacañang enough to issue a comment?)
- John, *humingi ng dispensa kay* Tonyboy.
- John, nag-sorry kay Gretchen.
- Greta upstaged **Marjorie.** (That's the sister who just filed for annulment of her marriage to comedian **Dennis Padilla.** Marjorie could teach many girls in the biz a thing or two about breaking up: Just do it!)
- Gretchen *masaya at di apektado sa* kissing photo. (So who was fainting and vomiting, according to earlier reports?)
- Gretchen, *handang harapin ang kaparusahan.* (*Masaya ba 'yun?*)
- Tonyboy, Gretchen *at anak, magbabakasyon sa* abroad. (*Ang saya nga.*)
- Gretchen, *patuloy sa pag-iyak.* (*Ano ba talaga?*)
- Tonyboy at Gretchen, *madalas mag-away*; Ruffa, *nakikisimpatiya.* (Hey, mind your own scandal.)
- Gretchen, John *matagal nang mag*-on.
- Love story *nina* Gretchen *at* John, *may katotohanan.* (*Ay*, let's not go there, *mga kafatid.*)
- Greta *pinatawad na ni* Tonyboy.
- *Lani*, no comment on Gretchen. (No comment.)
- *Payo ni* Tonyboy *kay* Greta: No more parties! (*'Yung lang!*)
- John, *inako ang sisi.*
- *Maraming inggit kay* John.
- Gretchen, *ngayon ka mag-maangas kay* Lani. (Ref, forcing through!)
- John, *humingi ng tawad kay* Janice *at mga anak.* (*Aww*, sweet.)

Crazy combat

- *Sira ulo si* Yilmaz—Ruffa. (Yilmaz: "Yes, I crazy for marrying her.")
- Yilmaz *ibang klaseng magalit.*
- *Pamilya ni* Yilmaz, *hindi* old rich. (What's a three-letter adjective?)
- Ruffa wants to join campaign against battered women. (Way to go—elevate scandal to advocacy level.)
- Ruffa, *ginulpi na ng asawa, kinuryente pa!*
- *IHAHABLA!* (Ruffa is suing Yilmaz—caps and exclamation point not ours. Never.)
- Yilmaz, *kakasuhan si Ruffa.*
- Yilmaz, *reresbakan ni* Annabelle.
- Annabelle Rama, *kukuyugin ng mga* Muslim.
- Ruffa, *kinampihan ni* Robin. (Didn't these two elope when they were "young and foolish"—and Robin already had a family at the time. If that was a gimmick, is anyone sorry now? Raise your hand.)
- Ruffa: *Sana wala nang magsasalita tungkol dito.* (When under stress, talking to oneself is therapeutic.)
- Ruffa, *nakatanggap ng* death threats *kay* Yilmaz.
- *Sa banta ni* Yilmaz, Ruffa, *sa* PNP *humingi ng tulong.*
- Ruffa *binigyan ng* 3 police escorts.

Pia? Pat-P?

- **Pia** *binabatikos dahil kay* Annabelle.
- Pia Guanio, *walang kwentang* TV host.
- *Dapat nang tsugiin* [*si* Pia] *sa* "Showbiz Central" *at palitan ni* **Pat-P Daza.**

Don't forget Kris

- Kris, *aagawin daw ang* program *ni* **Charlene.**
- **Boy**, *pinagbabati sina* Kris *at* **Cristy.**
- **Edu**: Kris is Kris.
- James *at* Cristy, *buwena mano ng* "Boy & Kris."

Who's that guy?

- **Diana Zubiri**, *dinenay na nai-motel siya ni* Vice Gov. **Mark Leviste.**
- Diana Zubiri, *di naging syota ni* Mark Leviste.
- Mark, *naka*-affair *din daw si* **Maui.**
- One-night stand issue, *ilusyon lang*—Maui.

Bonus chiz

- Asawa ni **Anjo**, *may karelasyong politiko?*
- **Karel** (**Marquez**) *gustong magpabawas ng ilong.*
- **Billy** (**Crawford**) is male **Lea Salonga.** (With all due respect, *'wag tayong padalus-dalos.*)
- **Erik** *at* Rufa Mae, break *na!* (Exclamation point not ours.)
- **Tita Swarding**, *kinumpirmang si* **Dennis** (**Trillo**) ang ama ng ipinagbubuntis ni **Carlene Aguilar.** (Fortunately for Dennis, this *chizmiz* will not prosper at least this week, on account of bad timing.)

Is anyone listening?

- Metro Manila Film Festival: Goodbye to quality, artistic movies.
- Reminder to actors: They are paid to act. (We can't put that more succinctly.)

Bachelor of the year

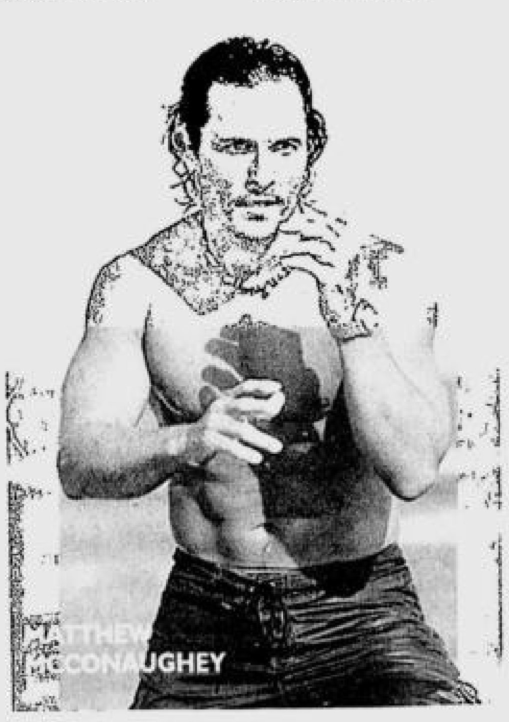
NEW YORK — **Matthew McConaughey**, frequently photographed shirtless and exercising on the beach, is People magazine's "Bachelor of the Year."

"I love warm weather and summertime," the 37-year-old actor says in the magazine's "Hottest Bachelors" issue, on newsstands Friday. "What better way to enjoy it than at the beach, where few people wear shirts?"

The magazine also names "sexy and sizzling" bachelors such as **Adrian Grenier, Zach Braff, Justin Timberlake, Ryan Reynolds,** and **Ludacris. David Spade**, who starred on the "Just Shoot Me!" television series, also makes the cut. *AP*

PAT-P DAZA

GRETCHEN B.



MATTHEW McCONAUGHEY

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WINNERS COOL CARS Raffle!

4 KIA PICANTO DELUXE WINNERS

MARLITA GERILLA
Potrero, Malabon
CHONA B. AMONCIO
CMU Musuan, Bukidnon
GINA ABAYGAR
Country Homes, Muntinlupa
ELVIRA RAGANAS
Brgy. Luna, Surigao City

16 HONDA BRAVO MOTORCYCLE WINNERS

JUANA FLORENDO
Bacoor, Cavite
JOY PONO
San Cristobal, Calamba
ANGELICA BUARON
Greenhills, San Juan
LEA NASTOR
36 Sepic Road, Baguio City
MARICAR D. MENDOZA
Sta. Catalina, Tarlac
CARLITA D. BETHIE
Valle Hermoso, Negros Occidental
RANCHITO REBOLLEDO
San Fernando, La Union
NOEMI Q. BORJE
Poblacion Columbio, Sultan Kudarat
NORMAN MILLARES
Valenzuela
TERESITA MACALE
TGP, Caloocan
MARLYN DONAYRE
Biclatan Gen. Trias, Cavite
NEEFA BON
Malocloc Sur IVISAN, Capiz
RICCI REYES
Occidental Mindoro
MAY SHER GERONAN
Toril, Davao
CRISTINA SANTIAGO
Ulango, Tanauan
ELSA MAGSOMBOL
Wakas Orion, Bataan

60 KODAK C433 EASY SHARE DIGITAL CAMERA WINNERS

[illegible]
Montalban, Rizal
MARILITA BEDONIO
Sta. Ana, Metro Manila
ROWENA B. LAWANG
Binangonan, Rizal
MARICEL ACHECO
CAA Road, Las Piñas
REYVIC PATRON
Sta. Rosa, Laguna
ABIGAIL G. MENDIBLE
Binangonan, Rizal
MARILOU POHIENTO
Sta. Rosa, Laguna
SANAITA C. RAMOS
Tondo, Manila
NORA A. MENDIOLA
Labas, SGAR
ALMA LACHICA
UPS 5, Sucat
FELICITAS ZABLAN
San Simon, Apalit
GERVACIO TANA
Tagum
HILDA D. YUMANG
Bolus, Bugcaoan, Buguias
NATHALIE S. TOLENTINO
Asuncion, Davao del Norte
LANE D. DELA CRUZ
Gumaca, Quezon
LILY CRUZ
David Lubao, Pampanga
MANDY JOAQUIN
Tayug, Pangasinan
MAYA MENDOZA
Barosong, Dapitan City
MARILYN MARCELLONES
Sorsogon Province
ALMA A. AUSTRIA
Bauan, Batangas
JENNIFER B. DE VERA
Binmaley, Pangasinan
MICHELLE ZEROA
Totolan, Dauis, Bohol
EVA S. MENDOZA
Subic, Agoncillo, Batangas
FLORA A. JIMENEZ
Meycauayan, Bulacan
MARINELA ENCABO
Malagtac, Tabaco City
MA. CORAZON G. CENTENO
1st Pasambong, Bulacan
ROWENA C. ILAGAN
Sto. Tomas, Batangas
LORELI D.G. ZABAT
Dominican Hill, Baguio City
SHEHA H. MUCAD
Zamboanga City
GERALDINE B. TESTIN
Oriental Mindoro
AGNES HISTORILLO
Camarin, Caloocan City
VERONICA ANGELES
Mapayapa, Calamba City
SALVADOR SABEROLA JR.
Caloocan City
GINA CRUZ
Palatiw, Pasig City
JOSEPHINE GENESIS
Silang, Cavite
EMMY GLENDA SANTIAGO
Bacoor, Cavite
MARY JANE ANDRADE
Cabuyao, Laguna
STELLA FULGENCIO
Parang, Marikina City
MARY JOE ROSITA
Lipa City
DANIEL PASCUAL
Las Piñas City
GLENN CASTRO
Yati Lilo-an City, Cebu
HAYDEE LABRAY JR.
Pusil Tuy, Batangas
SUSAN OCAY
Libertad, Bacolod City
MARIE ANGELIE NIVERA
[illegible], Cebu City
RIZZA MACALINAO
San Jose, Romblon
MARISSA PENTRAZA
North Appt 7, Tagum City
ARTHUR CRUZ
San Antonio, Nueva Ecija
LEONARDO MORALES
Zamboanga City
MARGARITA SIACOR
Cash, Consolacion, Cebu
JAZEL JOY MONREAL
Arevalo, Iloilo City
THERESA CUTOM
Abuyog, Leyte
ANGELA RAMOS
Palo, Batangas City
ANABELLA SALVADOR
Mandurriao, Iloilo City
RICKY F. FRANCO
Poblacion, Dumalag, Capiz
GINA CARAMAT
San Jacinto, Pangasinan
E. TORRALBA
[illegible] 3 FC, La Union
HENY IGNACIO
Bansud, Oriental Mindoro
JANET CONSUELO
Balas, Guagua, Pampanga
FLORANTE JUN MIGALLON
Sison, Pangasinan
ERLINDA DILAN
220 Dau Lane, Old Sabulan

28 GLOBE PHONE KIT WITH NOKIA 6070 CELLPHONE WINNERS

ANABEL G. ALCARAZ
Mahogany Village, CHB Laguna
REYMA Z. ICO
247 Purok 5, Zone 8 Cupang, Art City
MARIA AILEEN FELIAS
Barangay Real, Calamba City
ELENITA D. ABON
Sta. Rosa Laguna
ROXANNE DIRA
Roxas District, Quezon City
RACHEL SALAJOG
Kabacan Street, Bucana, Davao City
MARISSA P. CUETO
Gulod Itaas, Batangas City
MARINA RABINO
San Isidro II, Poom, Bulacan
MARIBEL MARINANG
P 17 Valencia City, Bukidnon
SONIA PRADO
Central Marcy District 1, Davao Oriental
CARMELITA CARAIG
341-A P. Gomez Street Mariveles, Bataan
LETICIA UMINGLI
Lagawe, Ifugao
ANDREA C. SOYO
Samaka Highway, Carlaon City
LALAINE P. ARMENTA
Sta. Tomas Sta. Maria, Bulacan
ROEL MAGLANGIT JR.
L 41 B 90 Amarillo, Makati City
LYKA MARIE CAPULONG
Bukid Malinta, Valenzuela City
ROSEMARIE PELO
Balelawak, Quezon City
ROBERTO SORIANO
Nyog, Antipolo City
CATHERINE ORTIZ
S.F.D.M., Quezon City
DEXTER SOQUILA
Mapandan, Pangasinan
MARINELL CRUZ
Sta. Clara, Gumba, Nueva Ecija
ALONA MANALO
Balan, Batangas
GLENDA MARTIRIZAR
132 Roxas Avenue, Sitio La Aklan
ANNMARIE KENG
Bacolod City
FREDELEX JACOB RANCHES
Alaminos City, Pangasinan
BENJAMIN PAGTALUNAN, JR.
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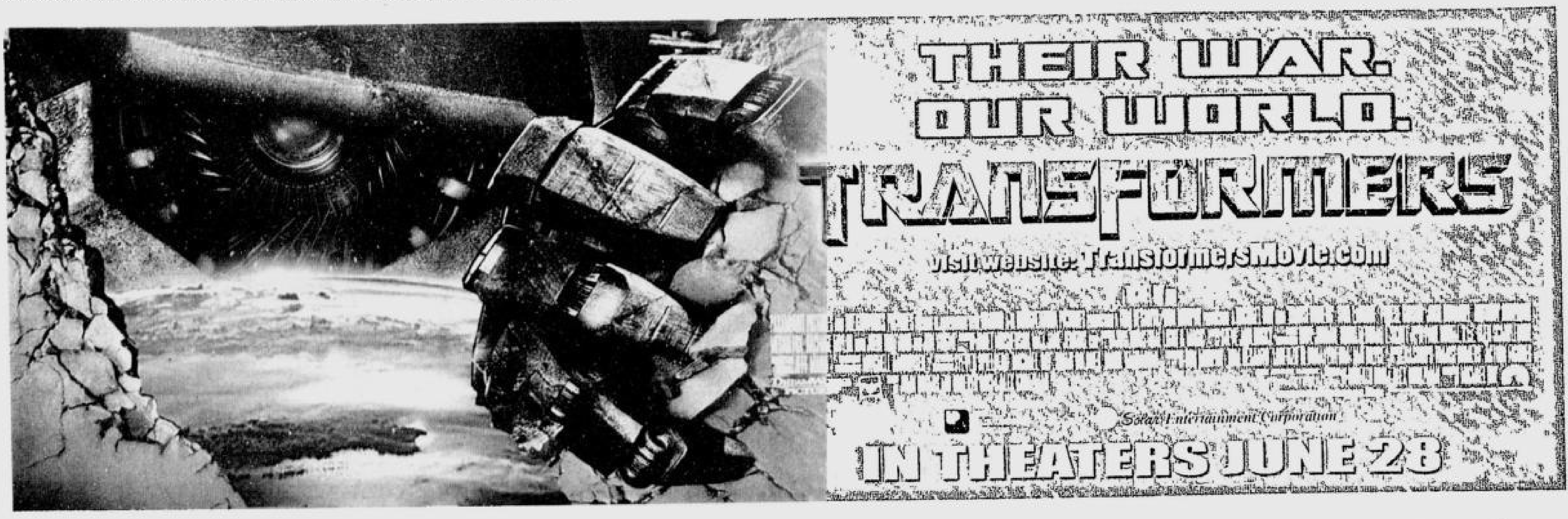
Solano, Nueva Vizcaya
JUNDEE BAQUERO
Poblacion New Corella, Davao

PLUS!

- 120 winners of NIKON 2-IN-1 STAND FAN
- 150 winners of AVON Fashions EARTH BROWN HOBO BAG
- 250 winners of AVON Fashions EARTH TONES NECKLACE
- 500 winners of AVON Fashions SAFARI CHIC WALLET
- 1000 winners of SKIN-SO-SOFT ULTRA HEALING BODY LOTION 250 mL
- 2000 winners of HEAVEN SCENT SPLASH COLOGNE 100mL
- 2000 winners of NATURALS WHITENING CREAM 50mL

*List of the following winners will be posted in all AVON Branches.

* Winners will be notified via registered mail. They can claim their prizes by contacting their Avon lady or visiting their nearest Avon Branch. Winners should present the letter and two (2) valid IDs when claiming their prizes.



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Daddy!

Father's Day 2007 Special Feature

By Alizza C. Butiong

A man's quest for fatherhood

I KNOW HE WILL BE surprised to read this. He has often asked me if he was a good father. And every time, I pause and become uncertain of the answer. Not that I'm a woman, single and do not have children yet.

He is a father of two. His daughter turned six last week, while his son will turn five next month. He got married at 24, and was separated from his wife four years later. The marriage was far from perfect, and their differences made them decide to seek separate fates. After the separation, he seldom saw his children. In fact, the last time he was able to visit his children was almost two years ago.

It's painful for a father not to see his children, send them to school, hear their voices, play with them and tuck them in bed. Each day that passes is filled with emptiness with no end.

He then realized that he should search inwards if he ever hoped to be reunited with his kids again. Money was one of the main reasons for the separation, and so he found a job. He worked hard, grabbed every opportunity that came his way. Failure shadowed him constantly, but he would not stop.

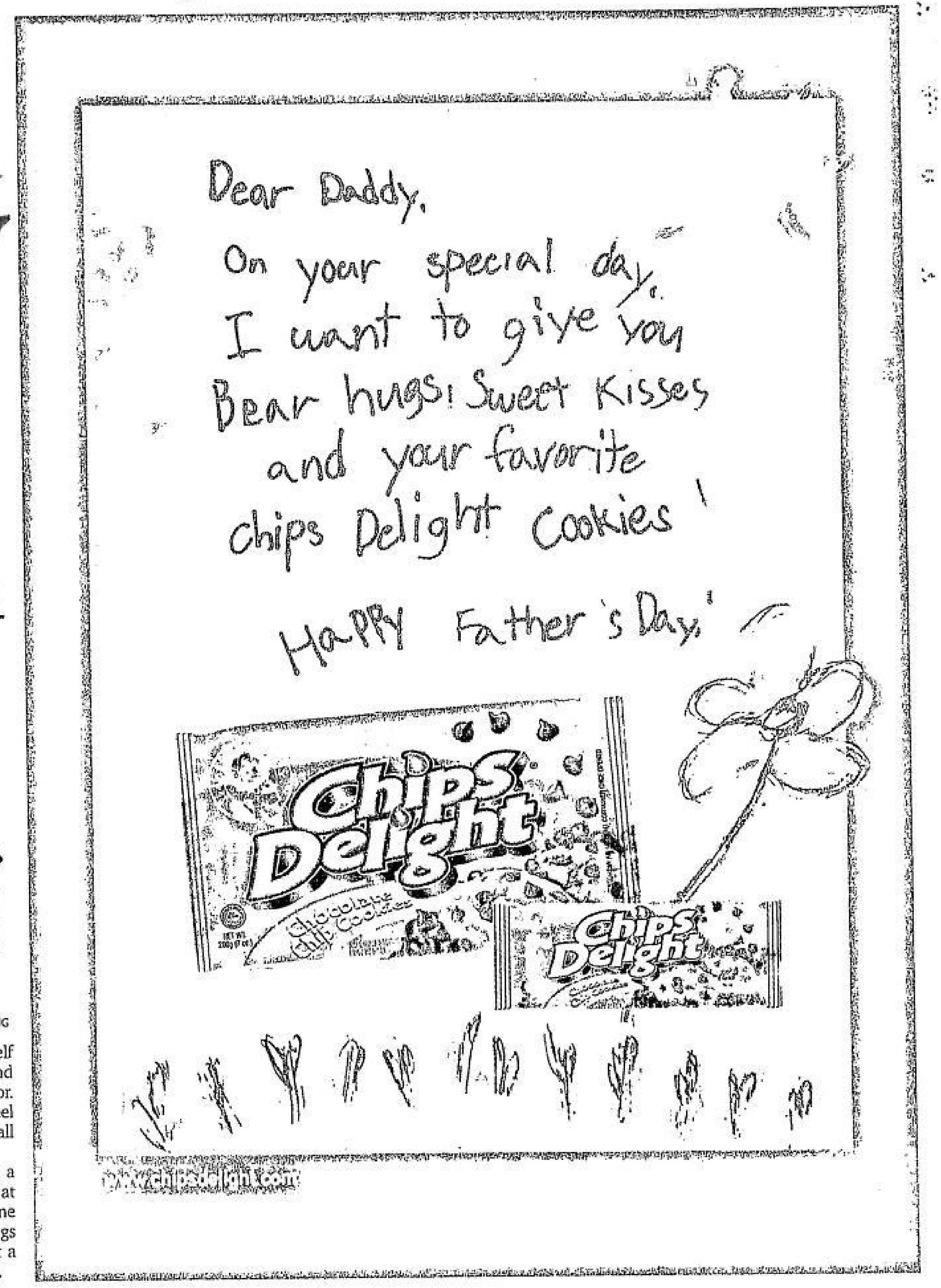
At work, he used his painful experiences as motivation. For him, the hardest part of life had already happened. It was time to live a new life.

Before long, he became a team leader at the workplace. He earned the trust and confidence of his superiors, and the respect of his peers. His colleagues are aware of his painful past, and they are only too happy for what this man has become.

He has managed to turn his life around almost completely. Yet, there is still that one important part missing to make the circle complete: His children. Soon, he will reveal himself to them, show them what he has become, and for whom he has done all these changes for. Soon, he vows, he will finally make them feel the love and care he has kept in his heart all these years.

So now, whenever he asks me if he was a good father, all I can answer is for him to look at himself. I believe fatherhood is not just the time a father spends with his children, or the things he is able to give them. It's also about what a man has become to be a father to his children.

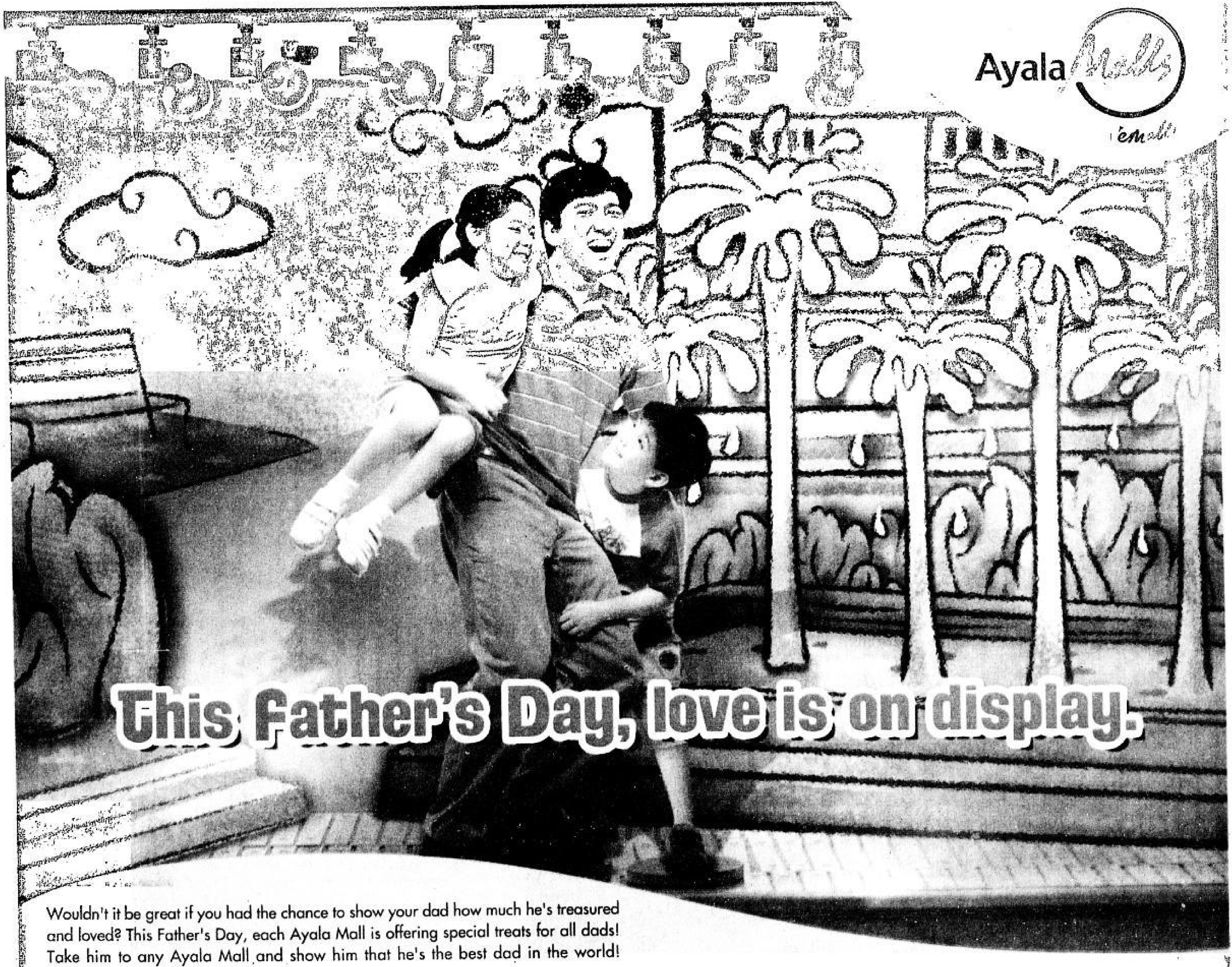
ILLUSTRATION BY ALIZZA BUTIONG



Dear Daddy,
On your special day,
I want to give you
Bear hugs! Sweet Kisses
and your favorite
Chips Delight Cookies!

HAPPY Father's Day!

www.chipsdelight.com



Ayala Malls
This Father's Day, love is on display.

Wouldn't it be great if you had the chance to show your dad how much he's treasured and loved? This Father's Day, each Ayala Mall is offering special treats for all dads! Take him to any Ayala Mall and show him that he's the best dad in the world!

To find out what's in store for dad, call:

Glorietta	Alabang Town Center	Ayala Center Cebu	Market! Market!	TriNoma
752-7272	842-2782 / 772-1860	(032) 231-5342 loc 324	886-7519	901-3000

Glorietta Greenbelt Alabang Town Center Ayala Center Cebu Market! Market! TriNoma

www.ayalamalls.com.ph

Fatherhood fulfills Aga Muhlach

THERE'S SOMETHING TO BE SAID ABOUT successfully staying in Philippine show business for more than 20 years, making more than 30 movies, several TV sitcoms, and receiving prestigious acting awards. Although he is very grateful for these blessings, Aga Muhlach believes it all somehow pales in comparison to what he considers his biggest blessing yet: his family.

The bedimpled Aga becomes even more swoon-worthy when bonding with his kids Atasha and Andres, and his wife Charlene Gonzales. As seen in their heartwarming Jollibee commercials, the sparkle in his eyes is unmistakable when they're all together, painting the perfect picture of a fulfilled and committed father.

"I never had the ambition to be rich or become sikat," he said in a previous interview, "but I have always dreamed of growing old with my wife and my kids. I have finally reached that stage in my life. I hope that in the future my kids will be able to experience this happiness, too."

At around the same time last year, Aga received the Ulirang Ama Award of 2006, an honor he considers his biggest and most cherished yet. Granted by the National Mother's Day and Father's Day Foundation Inc, the award recognizes the matinee idol's exemplary achievements in his family life and in his field. A true role model for fathers, Aga uses his popularity as an actor to make more people aware of the plight of others.

Every Christmas for the past 12 years, Aga and Jollibee have been making hundreds of underprivileged children happy through a toy-and-book donation drive called MaAga ang Pasko sa Jollibee. The project started as Aga's birthday tradition, and with the leading fast-food brand's full support, grew over the years to spread joy to more than 1 million kids. Through the campaign, Aga also teaches his kids to help others. Last year, the twins themselves assisted their Dad in handing over the toys and books for other kids to enjoy during the Christmas Bash held at the SM Mall of Asia.

Aga, who helped organize STEAM (Special Team for Deaf Persons Foundation Inc) has also helped some 400 deaf people get employment, most of them at Jollibee. Originally, he requested for the restaurants to employ just a few, but with their skills and Jollibee's trust in Aga, the chain decided to employ much more.

From being one of showbiz's most eligible bachelors, fatherhood has clearly changed and revitalized Aga. He and Charlene admit that they no longer go out as much and prefer to stay home with their kids and invite their friends over. He is also more selective of projects so he can focus on his family. "Family life awakened me to so many pleasures I never knew before -being with my wife and kids, tending our pets at our farm" he was quoted to say. "There's nothing like it."

Goldilocks Mocha Praline cake for him

HE'S THE ONE YOU ALWAYS RELY ON. HE'S the shoulder you lean on. He's the strong arm that supports you. He's one of the closest to your heart. He's dad, father, papa, or just pop. Celebrate this Father's Day in a special way with a Premium Cake from Goldilocks. The Mocha Praline Cake is a light mocha chiffon cake combined with rich caramel icing, a vanilla buttercream border, milk chocolate toppers, a center filled with a layer of caramel cream and vanilla buttercream, and sprinkled with cashew praline. Show your father how important he is through a Mocha Praline Cake from Goldilocks.

Happy Fathers Day!

Pop's on a roll!

Nothing puts a wider smile on Dad's face than sprinkling some love yourself on his favorite plaything–his car, of course. So, before he sets off to the office on Monday, surprise him today with these premium auto enhancements.

Give it the grip

MAKING THE RIGHT DECISION in choosing the proper set of tires for your vehicle is crucial, since making the wrong choice could compromise the comfort level and safety of your ride. Nitto Tires, one of the most trusted brands in the US and Japanese market suggests it is safer to invest in a tire with limitless possibilities with regards to handling in all kinds of weather and terrain. The Nitto NT420S was specifically engineered to provide high performance and require less owner maintenance for fitment upgrades for large size SUVs and sedans. With sizes ranging18 to 22 inches, The NT 420S has carved a niche in the high-end SUV and truck tuner market. The NT420S features an outer shoulder with large, continuous blocks to improve dry traction, while the inner shoulder channels away water for wet performance.

The NT420S also has a nondirectional tread pattern that can be rotated front to back and side to side. This freedom of rotation can provide even wear across the tread and reduce the heel-toe wear that is typical of directional tires. Even wear ensures a quieter, more comfortable ride and longer tread life. The result is a stress-free, high-performance radial.

For those who wish to look good and feel good, visit Wheel Gallery at 318 Santolan Road corner M. Paterno, San Juan or call 724-2739 or 726-0965 or log on to www.conceptonewheels.com. Nitto is also available in select Concept One dealers nationwide.

Motul protection

IN ITS AIM OF PROVIDING CONSUMERS with the best value for money, and in response to the demands of automobile manufacturers for a high-performance oil for modern day engines, Motul formulated the H-TEC 100 Fully Synthetic Oil. As an industry pioneer in synthetic oils and backed by the expertise of its research laboratories in Europe and Asia, Motul H-TEC 100 10W40 was developed to provide lubrication for modern day sophisticated engines, while assuring fuel savings and automotive efficiency. H-TEC 100 is oil with excellent anti-oxidation properties preventing premature thickening and aging due to thermal stress. Its high-performance anti-wear additive increases engine life duration and decreases wear by reducing engine internal frictions resulting in smooth and light acceleration. H-TEC's anti-deposit and anti-black sludge power help maintains a clean engine, and also has properties for anti corrosion, anti-foam properties that protects both the oil and engine from unwanted elements the car accumulates from usage. H-TEC 100 is suitable for standard leaded or unleaded gasoline, LPG powered cars, and for city and/or highway driving conditions. Motul H-TEC 100 10W40 retails for P430 a liter. "We positioned this product in such range to introduce the performance of a true synthetic oil to all motorists, and for average consumers to appreciate our products," relates Carlos Gono of Autoplus Sportzentrium, the exclusive distributor of Motul oil and lubricants in the Philippines. Known for its humble beginning as a whale oil trader in the 1850s, Motul continues to develop its products to address the demands of the automotive industry, its customers and the environment with race tracks of the world as its proving ground. Motul's formulated oils are universally approved by the Automotive Manufacturers (OEMs) and exceeding the standards set by Industry Classifications (API, ACEA). As a Father's Day special, Autoplus Sportzentrium is offering a promotional package for H-Tech Synthetic Oil for only P2,300, which includes four liters of H-TEC, oil filter, free labor and check up. For inquiries, visit Motul at 233 Edsa (southbound), Mandaluyong City or call 726-3066, 726-0399, e-mail, info@autoplus.com.

Load solutions

THULE SHOULD BE THE FIRST NAME THAT comes into consumers' minds when buying transportation solutions for leisure or professional use. Thule's aim is to provide the customers a convenient and practical choice to be based on a conscious decision; wanting to transport their equipment safely, easily and in style. Thule's line of roof racks, boxes and bike racks provide reliable, user-friendly product solutions which gives the customers access to the best and widest product range available on the market, with the best conceivable service. Unlike other locally available load carriers, Thule has an easy snap on, snap off feature which lets you install the load carriers with ease. With Thule, there's no drilling required, it is guaranteed safe from rust, and is wind tunnel tested to aerodynamically complement the exterior design of any vehicle. Thule's line of load carriers are 100-percent machine made from Sweden and has passed the four seasons test of the ISO. Thule is the only accredited OEM roof racks designer in the local market and is a proud supplier of load carriers for brands such as Ford, Volvo, Land Rover, Nissan, Toyota, GM, BMW and Mercedes Benz. "As a company truly involved and dedicated in what we do, Thule shares the same passion as our customers-the passion for an active life, and outdoor activities. We understand customer needs, because we are consumers ourselves. That provides a strong incentive to make better products, provide better services and achieve better results. The Thule culture breeds this active involvement-to make smart, stylish and safe solutions to enable consumers to do the things they want to do. No problems, just load your gear and off you go," explains Erwin Versoza, president and GM of Thule/EGR Philippines.

For more information on how to gear up and make your vacation a more adventurous one, load up and visit the Thule-EGR Showrooms in Ortigas Avenue (744-6367) and Pasong Tamo (892-7847) or log on to www.thule.com.

Memorable weekend with Dad at Power Plant Mall

THIS FATHER'S DAY, MAKE YOUR WEEKend something to remember by heading to the Power Plant Mall and creating a lasting memento that your family will definitely treasure! Celebrate the mall's "Dad Deserves a Hug" Weekend from June 16 to 17 and give your dad a big bear hug at the Hug Station located at the R1 Bridgeway.

A minimum single receipt purchase of P1,000 entitles one to a free photo, capturing the special moment between a father and his kids.

Dads and kids at the Hug Station are encouraged to be creative and enthusiastic in front of the camera, as all pics are automatically entered in a photo contest. The top prize for the photo contest is a premium foot massage gizmo, an Osim iSqueez. Second place wins a family dinner at the Power Plant Mall worth P3,000 and an iPod nano for daddy.

Participants can also win instant prizes by picking a slip of paper from the Hug Station fishbowl, so everyone's a sure winner!

Sporty dads and kids can have an exciting game of bowling or billiards at Power Bowl, while those who want to enjoy the latest blockbuster, "Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer", can watch at the Power Plant Cinema.

It's surely a fun weekend to bond with your Dad and the rest of your family at the mall that keeps family traditions alive.

For inquiries, call the Power Plant Mall at 898-1702.

Get a weekend break at The Legend Villas

DADS NEED NOT WORRY ON HIS SPEcial day because The Legend Villas is just within the city, driving even the whole family is not a problem because it is strategically located in the heart of Metro Manila.

The Legend Villas family weekend getaways include an overnight Superior Room accommodation for only P2,822 nett per room per night, buffet breakfast for two adults and two children aged 7 and below, complimentary mineral water and daily newspaper. Surprise dad with a relaxing massage and get it at 10 percent off while the kids enjoy the cool waters of the Lanai pool and outdoor Jacuzzi.

Dad can also try the new menu of Lola Maria Coffee Shop. The Coffee Shop prides itself with its mouthwatering recommendations; sumptuous servings of Bulalo, Crispy Boxingero (Crispy Pata), Beef Caldereta or Sugpo ala Plancha. They also have Lola's Platters of prito, inihaw or pinausukan inclusive of soup, rice and childhood favorite, ice candy. It is virtually a list of all-time Filipino favorites created that special Lola Maria way. Get a 10-percent discount on food and beverage when you dine at Lola Maria.

The Legend Villas is located in Pioneer, Mandaluyong, just a walk away from Robinsons Pioneer Mall. It is also a kilometer away from SM Megamall, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Robinsons Galleria, Greenhills Shopping Center and The Fort.

The weekend package is available at The Legend Villas until Dec. 31. The Legend Villas is owned and managed by Legend Hotels International Corp.

For reservations, call central reservations at 702-2700 to 04 or e-mail reservations@legendhotels.com.ph.

It's your day at the Pearl Farm Beach Resort

EVEN TOUGH GUYS NEED A BREAK... daddies need time to un-flex those biceps and give those aching backs a rest, and where better a place to do all these than in Davao's dream destination, Pearl Farm Beach Resort?

Here's yet another reason to bring the whole family to Davao (and God forbid that you forget your Daddy!). Pearl Farm Beach Resort has a special package tailored to suit your dad's liking. For the whole month of June, overnight packages for as low as P3,800 net per room per night are available (Room is for twin-sharing, extra person will have an additional fee). Package includes boat transfers from the city to the resort, welcome drinks, Malipano Island cruise, use of selected recreational facilities, as well as special tokens for Dads.

A day full of activities is slated today, where Wind and Wave Davao will give free scuba diving lessons to the dads. They will also get exclusive giveaways and will get a chance to win prizes that will be raffled off. Dad's Day Tour Package is also available for only P1,350.

So do away with those gift ideas of handkerchief and belts, here's the perfect treat for your dad that will surely be etched forever in his memory!

Pearl Farm Beach Resort is proudly managed by Fuego Hotels and Properties Management Corp. Call 750-1896 and 98 or (082) 235-0876, (082) 234-0601 for reservations, or log on to www.pearlfarmresort.com www.fuegohotels.com

Celebrate with a picture-perfect day

SPENDING TIME WITH DAD IS not very easy. Most fathers are the primary bread-winner in the family and therefore, they spend more time away from the kids, as opposed to Moms who are often at home doing homework and caring for the day-to-day needs of a child. However, children value precious time with their Dads, not so much based on the frequency, but on the quality of the time spent together. This can mean a basketball game they cheered together; a vacation spent building sandcastles together; just window-shopping for "toys" they both love to play; or watching a super-hero movie they both fantasize about. These are the memories that every child will reminisce about and treasure for a lifetime.

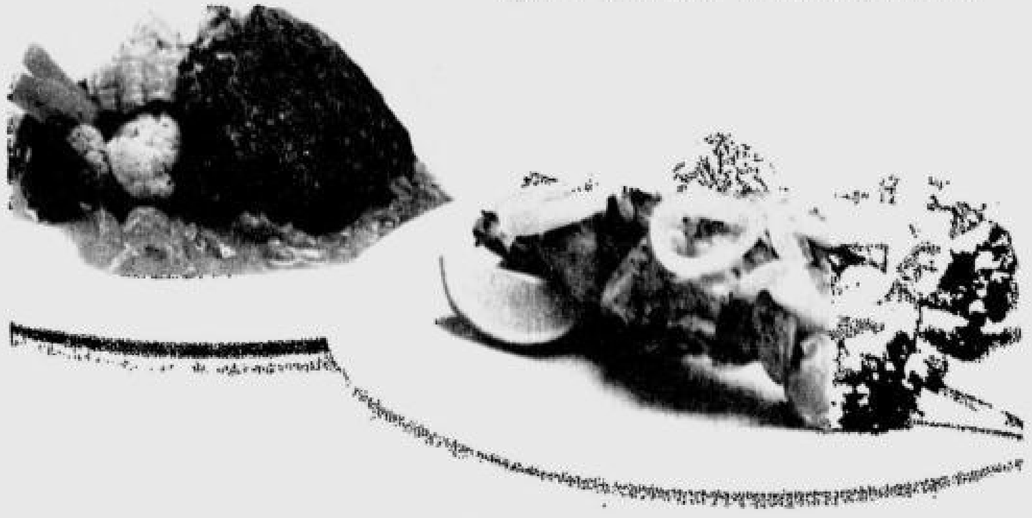
Remembering Father's Day this June 17, Holiday Inn Galleria Manila & Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila both celebrate this special day with a "Picture-Perfect" Father's Day celebration. They invite families to "put their best pic forward" and submit photographs of daddy and you celebrating time together.

There are five categories that you can qualify for, namely: How sweet it is to be loved by Dad-this would highlight photographs with Papa and kids sharing a big hug; Getting wacky with my Daddy-would highlight crazy moments spent with Dad; The best time I spent with Dad - could be a vacation getaway or a hobby shared; You're a great catch, Dad! highlights sports events shared with Papa; and Daddy and me look-a-Like-a photograph of kids and dads dressed in identical clothes!

Families can submit their photographs to any restaurant of both hotels between June 1 and 17, to be included and judged for any of the above five categories. When the family dines at the hotel today, the winning entries will receive special prizes from the hotel's sponsors. As an added bonus, every group of five persons that dine together on Father's Day will qualify Daddy for a free meal.

Information and advance reservations can be made by calling 633-7111 or 7222. Both Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila and Holiday Inn Galleria Manila are conveniently located in Ortigas Center, directly adjacent to Robinsons Galleria Mall.

Cravings treats the man of the house



FATHERS NEED PAMPERING TOO AND FOR Cravings, the best way to any dad's heart is to satisfy whatever his stomach craves for. Since Cravings prioritizes the family's enjoyment at the dining table, it made sure that the special day allotted to the "Man of the House" is celebrated and cherished.

Dubbed as "Dad's Day Out," Cravings has prepared two sumptuous dishes to satisfy the man's hearty appetite. It is an invitation to each member of the family to bring their Dads to Cravings' and surprise him with loads of freebies from Dermclinic, David's Salon, and Fitness First.

For the month of June, it's Dad's choice to spoil himself from Cravings' version of Minute Steak with Country-style Potatoes. Succulent beef tenderloin steak lain over a bed of onion confit and red wine sauce served with potatoes and a medley of buttered vegetable-perfect for meat-lovers and dads who are also wine connoisseurs.

For a lighter fare, dads can choose the Chicken Tandoori with Cucumber Greek Salad. This specially prepared meal is a perfect companion to the unlimited trip to Cravings' soup and salad bar. Dads can savor the perfectly grilled chicken thigh marinated in yoghurt sauce and served with mushroom pilaf rice and cucumber salad with an appetizing yoghurt dressing.

After a satisfying meal, Dad would surely love to "exercise" his sweet tooth and discover his cravings with two special cakes prepared this month. They can partake on either a slice of Choco Banana Fudge Cake or Chocolate Cookie Crumb Royale. The Choco Banana Fudge Cake is a banana-infused chocolate fudge cake topped with mouth-watering chocolate ganache. While the Chocolate Cookie Crumb Royale is a delicate layer of chocolate mousse and chocolate chiffon on top of a cookie crumb crust and sprinkled with cocoa powder.

Aside from satisfying his sweet cravings, he gets to have a free mug courtesy of Ace Hardware for every purchase of a whole cake.

Adding to the festive month of June, a minimum order of P1,000 inclusive of any Father's Day meal (single receipt) entitles customers to a free discount voucher courtesy of Dermclinic. Cravings makes the Dad's Day today extra special as a minimum order of P1,500 inclusive of any Father's Day meal (single receipt) entitles you to a voucher for free use of Fitness First facilities or free haircut at David's Salon.

So celebrate Dad's Day with Cravings and give him the much needed "day out" only he deserves.

Cravings has branches in Katipunan, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Tomas Morato, Festival Super Mall, Fraser Place, Makati City; and West Avenue. For more information, visit www.cravingsgroup.com.

Astoria Plaza's ultimate Father's Day treat

FOR THE MAN OF THE HOUSE who works hard, surprising him with a memorable treat that the whole family will also enjoy is something that he will definitely rave about 'till the next Father's Day. All you need to do is bring Dad to the Astoria Plaza for an overnight getaway filled with fun, food and entertainment, and spoil him with an out-of-the-ordinary vacation package that is sure to be a memorable experience!

For only P5,000 net per night for a 1-bedroom suite and P7, 600 net per night for a 2-bedroom suite, you can do anything and everything to spoil Dad with an out-of-the-ordinary vacation package that is sure to thrill him.

Honor fatherhood and say thanks to dad, to grandpa, and maybe even to great grandpa! All these for that very special Dad in your life only at Astoria Plaza. Promo period runs from June 8 until June 17.

Astoria Plaza is located at 15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District, Pasig City. For inquiries and reservations call 687-1111 or log on to www.astoriaplaza.com.

Astoria Plaza is managed with distinction by Genesis Hotels and Resorts Corp.

Celebrate Philippine independence with Dad

CELEBRATE PHILIPPINE INDEpendence at Heritage Hotel this Father's Day, let him know he's the hero of your life and treat him to a grand Filipino fiesta amidst an international fare for lunch or dinner buffet at the Restaurant Riviera from June 11 to 17. To make it truly special avail of the "My Father, My Hero" promo today only, for your dad to get a chance to win a free head-to-toe makeover inclusive of a gift certificate for a well-crafted Barong Tagalog, tobacco and other Filipino-made products courtesy of Kultura Filipino; as well as additional prizes from other sponsors such as Foot for the Gods, Fitness First, David's Salon and many more.

Moreover, swap notes with dad as you view the Filipiniana Exhibition replete with tobacco-making and pina weaving demonstration at the Lobby Area made possible by Kultura Filipino.

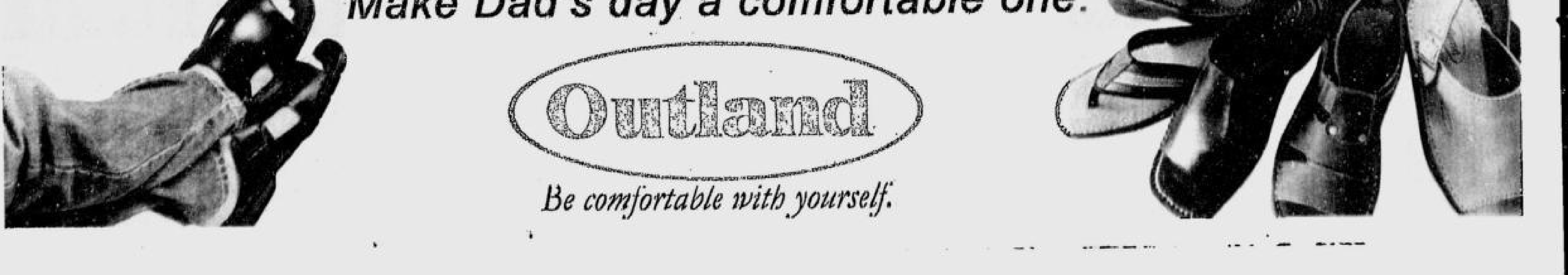
For a complete pampering experience for dads, let him bask in a new era of experience with the introduction of the Heritage Hotel's brand new rooms for the "Father's Day Room Promo" for only P3,998 net. This package is exclusively for local residents only and consists of an overnight accommodation in a complimentary upgraded and newly refurbished Superior Room; free use of swimming pool, gym, sauna and Jacuzzi and free scheduled shuttle service to SM Mall of Asia and a special discount for the "My Father, My Hero" promo.

So hurry, call 854-8888 or email marcom@heritagehotelmanila.com for inquiries and reservations. Terms and conditions apply.

Give Dad a Promac Cantana.
He deserves it.

Make his day the happiest ever by giving him Promac Midi Player. Its a DVD and Karaoke in one with thousand songs. Make him Videoke King for a day anywhere he goes.

PROMAC
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY FOR ALL
www.promac.com.ph


Make Dad's day a comfortable one.

Outland

Be comfortable with yourself.

Buuin ang araw ng ating Smart Pinoy Dads ngayong Father's Day
1:00 PM
RIYADH
Tawagan siya abroad with SMART IDD
6:00 PM
MANILA

Celebrate Father's Day at ipadama ang pagmamahal kay Daddy using any of the following Smart's International Services-IDD, International Text, International MMS, International 3G Video Call and International Voice Text.

How to make an IDD Call
Dial: + • country code • area code • party's number

How to send an International Text
Text to: + • country code • area code • mobile number

How to send an International MMS
To create an MMS message, insert picture and text message then send to
+ • country code • mobile code • mobile number

How to activate MMS service
Send **GPRS ON** and **MMS ON** to **333**.

How to request for GPRS Settings
Send **SET GPRS <phone model>** to **211**.
Ex: SET GPRS N6680

How to make an International 3G Video Call
Dial: + • country code • mobile code • mobile number
Choose "Video Call" in Calling Options

Reminder: Person to be called should have a 3G Phone and should be in a 3G area.

How to make an International Voice Text
1. To Send:
*8900 • country code • area code • phone number
Example: Dial *8900966509244444
2. To Retrieve: Call the retrieval code reflected in the SMS alert or dial
*9900 • country code • area code • phone number
Example: Dial *9900966509244444
3. To Reply: Press '1' upon message retrieval then follow the voice prompt.

Happy Father's Day mula sa

SMART PINOY

Pamilya'y pinagtitibay, sa pagganda ng buhay.

AVAILABLE TO: Buddy Talk 'N Text And Postpaid Subscribers.

DAHIL SMART TAYO

Daddy!
Father's Day 2007 Special Feature

Things my father never told me on becoming a dad

By Normandy dela Paz

I JUST COULDN'T BELIEVE IT. I AM BARELY OUT of my "Lord of the Rings" toy hunting, collecting phase, and making a living testament of showing anyone the meaning of pain if he touches my collection, and now, come December, I will be a dad. I just couldn't believe that when my kid comes, my most important possession will be demoted from being a collector's item to teething instrument once he or she grows choppers. But who's to complain, anything of value to me gets placed on the back burner once "my precious" comes.

I'm going to be a dad; it's still surreal to me. From the day my wife showed me the two stripes on the pregnancy kit up to the ultrasound where I see my kid looking like a pea but with a heartbeat as a fast as a racehorse, I still think I'm dreaming.

The thought of being a father brings me goose bumps and chills down my spine - goose bumps of anticipation and chills of excitement that is. My dad didn't tell me that it was going to be this exciting. On the other hand, my dad never passed on any tips to me on becoming a father. But then again, his father never told him anything either and he turned out just fine, what with four crazy and always hungry kids to feed and with a meager salary. I guess becoming a great dad is not passed on from one father to the next; it is discovered and learned by oneself. Here are just a few I discovered and learned:

Who's the boss - From the first month of my wife's pregnancy, I learned that my kid is the boss. When my kid is hungry, he/she makes sure I listen because my wife will tell me her cravings with that "sad puppy eyes" look. And who can't resist that look, you would go to the ends of the world if those pleading eyes gazed upon you. Mind you, my wife doesn't do that look. She couldn't peel me off the couch with that look when she wasn't pregnant. But now I will dig straight to China in the middle of the night just to find her the best-tasting siomai. I tell you it's my kid doing something to her face that I am compelled to do his/her bidding. Did I say spoiled?

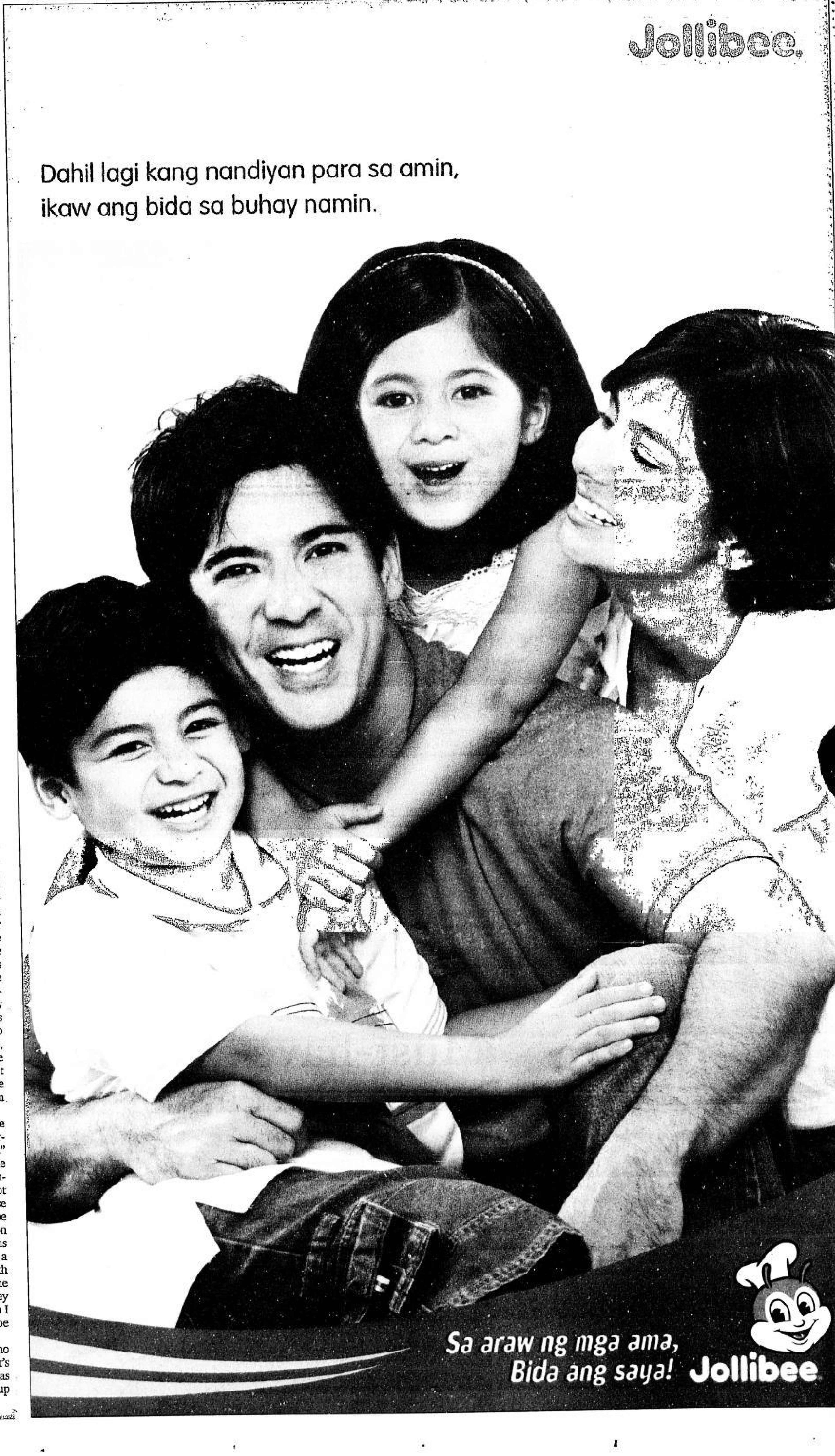
Wallet photo album - Someone said that "a father is a man whose wallet is full of pictures of his kids instead of money." I guess I'll be having that wallet soon. I better buy a new one with those long plastic sleeves to put the pictures of my kid in. If my wallet now is filled with pictures of our adopted kid Manchu (a Japanese Spitz mix), imagine how fat my wallet will be with my child's pictures. Yup, my wallet will be like a Japanese tourist's projector showing his gazillion vacation pictures, only mine will be filled with my kid's many firsts. My wallet may not be frequented with the faces of Jose Abad Santos, Josefa Llanes Escoda and Vicente Lim (P1,000); Ninoy Aquino (P500); or even Manuel Roxas (P100); but looking at my kid's pictures in my wallet everyday will make me feel richer than Bill Gates and Warren Buffett combined - hah!

Everything's trivial yet more special - Now that my kid is coming, everything seems to be less important to me. No more saving for that high-tech electric guitar effect that will make my axe shoot thunderbolts (the "I am Thor god of thunder, kneel before me!" 2007 model), that Camp Big Falcon toy replica (the crib of Voltes V, lucky for me I bought my childhood dream robot while I was still single or that would remain a dream), or the next Nike LeBron James shoe (he's not that great yet anyway, instead of "Zoom", his shoe model should be called "Broom", ask the San Antonio Spurs). All of these are now immaterial to me with my kid on the way, and yet the simple things will become more special to me when he/she is here. Things like the baby rattle I will buy for him (much cheaper than a high-tech electric guitar effect and yet more rich sounding), his/her crib (much more fun than Voltes V's digs), and his/her first shoes (my kid will always be a champ to me unlike Lebron).

Being pregnant is being more beautiful - Everyday I find my wife getting much more radiant in spite of the bulging tummy, the increase in weight, the evening sickness (she suffers the opposite of morning sickness), and other inconveniences when a woman is expecting. Maybe it's the simple fact that she is bearing my child, I learn that beauty is not only superficial. How can you not find beauty in someone who is carrying life, who forgoes her personal indulgences and comforts for the sake of the person inside her? If there's one thing fathers can be jealous of mothers, it is this wonderful thing called child bearing. We men will never fully grasp the beauty of rearing a child in our body, feeling him/her grow with each passing second. And as seconds march to minutes, minutes to hours, hours to days, days to weeks and weeks to months, women will only remember the magnificence of how life was developed within her and not the hardships they had to endure all those months. Now if only I was a seahorse or an emperor penguin, it would be another story.

Seeing fatherhood in a new perspective - My dad often said to us "You will understand when you have a family of your own." Now I know what he meant. Everything he has done and is still doing, he did for his family. He made tough decisions, some may not be popular, but still he made them because he knew it was the best for us. We may not be rich, yet we felt we were never left out on anything because our dad was very generous in sharing laughter to his family. My dad is a class act comedian. He would be faced with problems as big as Mt. Everest and still he would scale it and put a flag with a smiley symbol on its summit. If there's one lesson I learned from him on being a father, it is to be happy always-for your family.

To my dad and all fathers out there who smile at the face of adversity, happy Father's Day. I only hope I can be half as good, if not as great as, my dad when it's my time to step up to the plate.


Jollibee.

Dahil lagi kang nandiyan para sa amin,
ikaw ang bida sa buhay namin.

Sa araw ng mga ama,
Bida ang saya! Jollibee

Gerry's makes it a day to remember

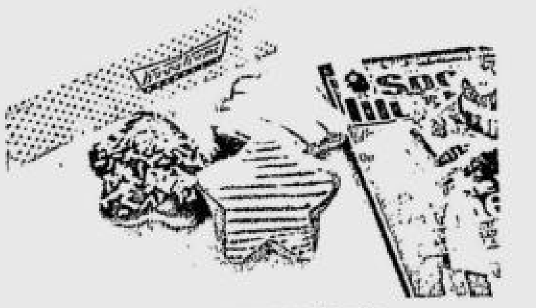
THIS FATHER'S DAY, CELEBRATE WITH your family in honoring the special man in your lives. Give your Dad a relaxing night away from his usual stressful day-at Gerry's Grill-the place where you'd still rather go to spend your special occasions.

Surrounded by tropical-inspired deco, treat your Dad to his favorite Filipino dishes while enjoying a cold drink. Gerry's Grill specialties will surely make this a night to remember-choose among an array of grilled seafood and Filipino favorites along with different beer-mates and pica-pica selections. House favorites are Sisig, Beef Kare-Kare, Crispy Pata, Lechon Kawali, Grilled Squid, Sugba Kilaw, Tahong ala Pobre, Baked Scallops, Steamed Pla-Pla, Bagoong Rice and Crab Rice. Enjoy your meal with fresh Buko Juice or the all-time favorite drink, Sago Gulaman. You can also take pleasure in several brews and mixed drinks prepared in the bar.

Pick any Gerry's Grill branch that suits you. Gerry's Grill has branches all over for everyone to enjoy. Take part in the Gerry's Grill experience at SM Baguio, SBMA Subic, Libis, SM San Fernando Pampanga, Alabang Town Center, Tomas Morato, Glorietta 2 Makati, SM Bicutan, Pacific Mall Lucena, Ayala Entertainment Center Cebu City, Blue Wave Macapagal Road, Promenade Greenhills, SM City Batangas, Blue Wave Marquinton Mall, Mezzanine Level, Insular Building, Ali Mall, BQ Mall Bohol, SM Mall of Asia, SM Clark Pampanga, SM Lipa Batangas, Jupiter Street, Davao Gaisano Mall, Calasiao-Dagupan Pangasinan, Market-Market Taguig, Silver City Pasig City, Pavillion Mall Laguna, Shopwise Sucat, Trinoma Mall Quezon City. Your location is not a problem; Gerry's Grill is within your reach.

Don't worry about making a hole in your pocket. Enjoy your meal with your family that is reasonably priced. Give this night to your dad. He deserves a fun night with his family while enjoying great food and drinks by a great staff in the most relaxed place in town.

With a relaxed ambiance, accommodating service, affordable prices and a wide array of food to choose from, you'd still rather be at Gerry's Grill.



ALL-STAR DOUGHNUTS FOR DAD

A sweet treat is in store for the sweetest Dad with Krispy Kreme's All Star Doughnuts, which comes just in time for Father's Day. Share a dozen Caramel Filled Basketball, Strawberry Filled Baseball, Custard Filled Football, and Star Shaped doughnuts with Dad and the whole family, available starting June 14. There are also 'kremey' gift ideas for Dad like the Sport's Lover's Dozen (6 pieces of Original Glazed and 6 pieces All Star Doughnuts, and a Krispy Kreme coffee mug). Kids can also create their own doughnuts for Dad from June 14 to 17 at Krispy Kreme outlets. Visit Krispy Kreme Bonifacio High Street (Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City) and SM Megamall (Ground Floor, Building B). The 3rd and 1st drive-through store in Asia will open on June 28 at Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan.

Dad's personal radio

POPULAR SCIENCE MAGAZINE CALLS THE Bose Wave radio/CD system as a "sonic marvel". The impressive clarity, lifelike tones, deep richness, classic styling and compact size allow the Wave music system to fit almost anywhere: the kitchen, bedroom, living room or at the office. It is a standard feature in high-end hotels and resorts due to its versatility: an AM/FM radio and a 5-CD changer that offers inputs to accommodate additional audio sources such as your TV or MP3 player, etc. A credit card size remote control allows you to control the system from any point of the room.

The inspiration behind this technological break through is as old as the wind instruments of Haydn's orchestra. Like a flute strengthening the breath of air to fill an entire concert hall, Bose's patented acoustic waveguide speakers produces full, clear stereo sound from a small space by guiding air though a labyrinth air chamber. This revolutionary technology won Bose engineers the prestigious "Inventor of the Year" award, one of many innovations that made Bose the most respected name in audio technology.

To experience the ultimate in audio innovation, visit the Bose showrooms at the Rockwell Mall, Glorietta 3, SM Megamall, SM Edsa and the Block, and at the SM Mall of Asia or call 634-8484/898-2048/816-7590 or log on to www.eleksis.com.

Celebrating special days at Tokyo Tokyo

TOKYO TOKYO IS INDEED THE PLACE FOR special occasions. This Father's Day, the leading Japanese fastfood chain in the country offers a wide array of mouth-watering dishes guaranteed to make this a Father's Day treat Dad will never easily forget.

He can choose as he pleases with these affordable dishes: sushi, sashimi, tempura, beef misono, chicken teriyaki, sumo bento box meals, and so much more. Let him dig in on his favorite Tokyo Tokyo dishes such as tonkatsu, yakitori, and even soba noodles. Complement these with Tokyo Tokyo's signature Red Iced Tea and Dad's got the definitive Father's Day meal.

Let your treat end on a sweet note by selecting desserts from Tokyo Tokyo's Creamy Delights line: Strawberry Cream, Mokka Cream, Choco Mousse, or Coco Pandan Jello Eggs.

There's more in store, of course. Get Dad a free eight-piece California maki for every P250 food purchase from June 8 to 17 at all Tokyo Tokyo branches. Now that's value for money.

Go ahead, take the family out to celebrate Father's Day at Tokyo Tokyo for a special occasion that you will always remember.

Hershey's daring dish for his special day

THIS FATHER'S DAY, DARE TO depart from desserts and treat your dad to the culinary possibilities of Hershey's chocolate. He will surely delight in these scrumptious recipe. So bring out the skillet and pre-heat the oven. For sure, these dish will bring your Dad Hershey's happiness beyond measure.

Chicken Enchiladas with Chocolate Enchilada Sauce

Ingredients:

Chocolate Enchilada Sauce - 1 tablespoon vegetable oil; 2 cloves garlic, minced; 1 teaspoon onion, minced; 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano; 2 1/2 teaspoons chili powder; 1/2 teaspoon dried basil; 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper; 1/4 teaspoon salt; 1/4 teaspoon ground cumin; 1 teaspoon dried parsley; 1/4 cup salsa; 3/4 cup tomato sauce; 1/2 cup Herhsey's Semi-Sweet Chocolate Chips; 1 1/2 cups water.

Enchiladas - 4 tablespoons vegetable oil; 2 lbs. skinless boneless chicken breasts, cut into strips; 1 medium yellow onion, diced; 2 tablespoons chopped garlic; 1 teaspoon salt; 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper; 1 tablespoon ground chili powder; 1 tablespoon light brown sugar; 1 bunch cilantro leaves, chopped; 1/2 cup chicken broth; 5 cups shredded cheddar cheese, divided; 20 corn tortillas.

Directions: Heat oven to 375°F. Lightly grease two 13x9x2-inch baking pans; set aside. Prepare Chocolate Enchilada Sauce; set aside. Heat oil over medium-high heat (almost smoking) in large heavy skillet. Carefully add chicken, onion, garlic, salt and pepper; cook until brown, stirring occasionally. Add chili powder, brown sugar and cilantro. Deglaze this with chicken broth. Remove from heat and allow to cool. Pull chicken apart by hand into shredded strips. Stir in 3 cups of shredded cheese. Wrap corn tortillas in damp cloth. Microwave at high (100%) 10 to 20 seconds until soft and pliable. Spoon 1/3 cup (2 oz.) chicken mixture into center of tortilla and roll. Place rolled enchiladas (seam side down) into prepared baking pan. Pour Chocolate Enchilada Sauce over enchiladas. Sprinkle with remaining 2 cups shredded cheese. Cover; bake for 20 minutes. Garnish as desired.

Enchilada Chocolate Sauce: Heat oil over medium heat in a large saucepan. Add garlic; sauté for 1 to 2 minutes. Stir in onion, oregano, chili powder, basil, ground black pepper, salt, cumin, parsley, salsa, tomato sauce, chocolate chips and water; heat until it boils. Reduce heat to low, simmer for 15 to 20 minutes. About 2-1/2 cups sauce.

BEER'S ON US AT SAN MIG PUB

This Fathers' Day, give Dad a cool and entertaining break and treat him to the sumptuous food of San Mig Pub and Restaurant Alabang. The first 100 dads can cool down with a free bottle of ice-cold beer. The whole family can also feast in San Mig's weekend Mongolian Barbecue for only P310, and other Dad's old-time favorites such as Spanish lunch specials, paellas, prawn thermidore and traditional Filipino delights. Relax amidst the resto's laid-back and cozy Irish pub ambiance. It will definitely be a unique Father's Day Dad will never forget. San Mig Pub is at the second level of Corte delas Palmas, Alabang Town Center, Muntinlupa City. For reservations, call 807-3595 or 842-0776.

Enjoy Korean cuisine at Sorabol

THIS FATHER'S DAY, TREAT YOUR DAD TO Sorabol Korean BBQ. It's the contemporary Korean casual dining restaurant and a quick-serve joint for the whole family that serves the finest and freshest authentic Korean cuisine and Asian noodles. Celebrate this special day with the whole family to a flavorful Korean meal at Sorabol Korean BBQ with free dessert to all fathers who will dine in. Delight in its bestsellers like the mouth-watering Beef Bulgogi-a Korean-style grilled dish, Bokum Pap-a delightful Korean vegetable rice dish topped with fried egg in an authentic Korean burning stone bowl, and the savory Saewoo Tuigim-prawns tempura and more. Sorabol's Korean barbecue specialties, Asian noodles and soups as well as the rice bowls with toppings not only give the diners appetizing meal options, but more importantly, the scrumptious dishes are well-suited to the Filipino taste. Its generous portions provide great value and ensure that customers will want to keep coming back for more. Likewise, its modern and contemporary setting makes for a relaxing and enjoyable dining experience for the whole family. The Sorabol Korean BBQ outlet is located at the lower ground level of SM Megamall Building B, Edsa, Mandaluyong City. For inquiries, take out orders and party reservations, call 633-4241.

Celebrate today with a gift of health

THIS MONTH INSPIRES US TO CELEBRATE FATHER'S DAY ESPECIALLY with a bottle of wine waiting to be popped. Offer a toast to Dad's good health with organic wines from Healthy Options. Rich, tasty and healthy organic wines are absolutely perfect gifts straight from the heart with a promise of wellness. Moreover, organic wines have health benefits that promote a healthy heart and soul. One of the most sought after is the Fleury Champagne from France offered by Healthy Options. The delightful flavor of black cherry serves as a poignant reminder that this champagne is 100-percent Pinot Noir. The fine flavor and balance makes this a classic. Check out the wide selection of organic wines at Healthy Options with stores located at level 1 of Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong; Rustan's Supermarket, Makati; level 2 of Festival Supermall, Filinvest, Alabang; ground level of Ayala Center, Cebu City; ground floor of SM City North Edsa; level 2 of SM Manila; SM Pampanga; Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City; level 2 of SM Megamall B, Edsa, Mandaluyong City; SM Mall of Asia; SM Sta. Rosa; SM Clark, and at the newly opened High Street Bonifacio at the Fort. For more information, log on to www.healthyoptions.com.ph.

Discovery treats for Daddy dearest

FOR TEACHING YOU HOW TO tie your shoe laces and for life's greatest lessons, your father deserves more than just a pat on the back. Show him how much you appreciate his love and toil by treating him to any of the fine Father's Day offers of the Discovery Group.

At Discovery Suites, Ortigas Center, your Dad may avail of a special Father's Day Weekend Package that lets him experience an overnight stay in a one-bedroom suite inclusive of breakfast at Serendipity Lounge and a free one-hour massage at the Terra Wellness Spa. This relaxing package is available from June 15 to 17 and priced at only P5,000++ per person. For inquiries and table reservations, call Discovery Suites at 683-8222.

Treat Dad to a leisurely drive to picturesque Tagaytay and let him experience five-star country living at Discovery Country Suites. Let him choose from seven elegantly appointed suites such as the Spanish inspired Andalucia, the exotic Ceylon, Siam and Nara suites, cozy Nantucket, sunny Saint-Tropez, and the spacious Oxford suite. Rates begin at P5,500++ for weekday stays and P8,000 for weekends. The package is inclusive of country breakfast for two persons, complimentary wine and cheese during cocktail hour and warm milk with cookies at bedtime. For inquiries and reservations about Father's Day offers at Discovery Country Suites Tagaytay, call (6346) 413-4567 or 683-8383.

Let Discovery Shores Boracay be your Father's ultimate reward. A luxurious Boracay getaway awaits at the first and only Philippine resort included in the Small Luxury Hotels of the World collection. The 3-day, 2-night package is priced at P16,800 net per person inclusive of junior suite accommodations, breakfasts, airfare, land and boat transfers.

For information about this tropical island indulgence, call Discover Shores Boracay at 683-8248 or 683-8392.

ADVENTURE RACE AT FESTIVAL SUPERMALL

For a different celebration of Father's Day, join Festival Supermall's 'Adventure Race' today. Tandems composed of a father and son/daughter (7 to 12 years old) will race around the Mall and Westgate Center in a battle that will challenge each participant's mental and physical skills, and get a chance to win the grand prize, an Italian-made KTM Junior Motorcycle. Participating teams will be treated to instant giveaways during the race. This race is organized by Festival Supermall and Mizuno in coordination with the Philippine Women's Futsal Team.. For inquiries, call customer service at 850-3514 and marketing department at 850-3517 local 269. Festival Supermall is located at the Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

Treats for the world's greatest

MAKE IT HIS DAY TODAY BECAUSE FLAVOURS OF CHINA, THE HOUSE of authentic Cantonese cuisine, will give free "World's Greatest Dad" bull cap for a minimum purchase of P1,000. Enjoy Flavours of China's family-sized offerings. The deep-fried boneless chicken in lemon sauce is a perfect crisp glazed with a tangy sauce. Also a must-try, mixed seafood curry is a unique combination of shrimp, cuttlefish and veggies blended with a flavorful curry. It's definitely a world of gastronomic indulgence that Dad will surely enjoy, so bring him to any Flavours of China SM branches in San Lazaro, Southmall, Sucat, Sta. Rosa, Batangas, Lipa, Clark, The Block-North Edsa, Robinsons Lipa, Retiro Avenue, Quezon City, Makati Avenue, Makati and Tomas Morato, Quezon City.

Super treats for super Dad

TREAT THE SUPER DAD TO A SUPER MEAL. BRING HIM TO TEMPURA Japanese Grill, home of the best ebi tempura, because for a minimum purchase of P1,000 Dad can get a free "World's Greatest Dad" bull cap. He will definitely have the best dining experience grilling beef, pork, chicken, squid or shrimp on Tempura's smokeless yakiniku table. And enjoy choosing from the wide array of Maki. Try the new Ebi Salad Maki, Caterpillar Roll, Uncle Sam's Maki, Dragon Seafood Roll and Hawaiian Maki, each is indeed a delight to look at and even better to eat. Surely, your super Dad will love this super treat so bring him to any Tempura branch located in Retiro, Quezon City, Tomas Morato, Quezon City, UN Avenue, Manila, Makati Avenue, Convergy's, Makati, Alabang Town Center, Greenhills, SM Southmall and SM Mall of Asia.

Must-have cake-of-the-month campaign calls for a celebration

MUCH THOUGHT AND CARE GO INTO THE CREATION of a Red Ribbon cake. Only the best ingredients are chosen, baked to perfection and lovingly decorated, producing great-tasting and great-looking cakes with the highest quality.

From the all-time favorite Chocolate Mousse, to the classic Black Forest to the famous Chocolate Marjolaine, Red Ribbon's wide array of delectable cake offerings makes any celebration special. This year, Red Ribbon showcases its wonderful cake creations by launching the "Must-Have Cake-of-the-Month" campaign. This campaign successfully reintroduces the many delicious cakes that Red Ribbon currently offers by featuring a cake per month.

This June, Red Ribbon's Must-Have Cake is Coffee Crunch. Tempting layers of cream cake with delightful coffee crunch in between. Dressed with a generous coating of lush icing and topped with delicious honeycomb crunch. Savor the Must-Have Cake for June, it's a most welcome favorite.

Whatever the celebration, it's more beautiful with a Red Ribbon. Visit a Red Ribbon branch near you today or call 747-7777 for hassle-free delivery.

Coffee Crunch

Living life well for Dads

BECAUSE OF THE DAILY DOSE OF STRESS, pollution, and processed food that they have to take in as part of their busy lifestyles, dads also need to recharge.

Put it in his "to do" list this reminder: "Living Life Well."

On the 5th Level of SM MegaMall Building A in Ortigas Center, right in the heart of the throbbing metro capital, notable doctors have come together to set up a comprehensive clinic that offers state-of-the art medical services at prices lower than those of private hospitals. This is the De Los Santos STI MegaClinic. In this clinic is an Integrative Medical and Therapy Center aptly called Living Life Well.

Living Life Well combines conventional western medical practices and drug therapies when necessary with the kinder and gentler approach of Traditional Oriental Medicine and natural healing techniques to determine, manage, and treat illnesses. This combination is called Integrative Medicine.

In Living Life Well, all treatments are under the close supervision of qualified and compassionate medical practitioners.

An illness or complaint is treated not merely on a symptomatic level but on the level of the whole person - mind, body, and spirit. All its treatment modalities are directed toward stimulating the body to heal itself through interventions like acupuncture, acupressure, and a wellness program.

At Living Life Well, dads' Wellness Program will be designed by a pool of experts that specialize in Nutrition, Weight Management, Fitness and Lifestyle, and alternative exercises that awaken the natural healing force within you.

A visit to Living Life Well inevitably brings a person to a realization that the fast and stressful life of the city is not without a price.

Let dads start living life well. Living Life Well Integrative Medical Center is located at De Los Santos STI MegaClinic, 5th Level, SM MegaMall Building A, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong Cit. For more information , visit email info@llwmedicalspa.com or call 816-4733, 816-4994 and 0917-8020460.

Chef Gene Gonzalez on cooking, St. Peter, and Father's Day

COMBINE PICASSO, SUN TZU, KING Leonidas, St. Peter and Bill Gates in the heart of an individual and chances are, that person will make a mighty fine chef. That's according to Gene Gonzalez, the man who lives, breathes and thinks cuisine. "It's my life force, my soul, my energy," says Gene of being a chef. "It is not work, it is a noble profession."

His children, who are also into the culinary arts, are given this advice by their dad: "Like in life, prepare all the ingredients well and you will be able to execute the dish well and goals will be achieved. If you cannot give 100 percent effort and motivation, mediocrity turns the chef into a cook." Know-how, kitchen gadgets, and fresh ingredients are just one side of the equation; one must also cook with honesty and authenticity.

No doubt, chef Gene's clients relish his dishes as much as he takes serious delight in preparing them. He waxes sentimental about the profession: "I create something taken internally by someone who savors it. If I can bring out a smile, a few words of appreciation, that itself makes me love my work."

Now that Father's Day is coming up, Gene suggests finding out what your dad likes. "Be sure to buy and prepare the ingredients ahead. Don't worry what the outcome will be; food prepared with love will somehow be divine."

Chef Gene is one among the top-notch chefs tapped by San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center to lead its culinary events. For special Father's Day recipes, log on to www.mygreatfood.com.

Bridges Bookstore, pays special tribute to all dads

TATAY.... ITAY.... AMA... AMANG.... DADDY... DAD.... PAPA... these are the popular endearments that we attribute to the head of the household. For whatever they are called, fathers too have a special place in every heart and home. And for this reason, Goodwill will be giving a Special tribute to all fathers from all walks of life. A Father's Day Forum will be held at Bridges Bookstore, new V-Mall, Greenhills Shopping Center on June 23, Saturday, from 3 to 6 in the afternoon. Do you want to know what it takes to be a Father? Do you want to hear straight from a Father's heart? All these and more will be tackled by prominent male figures during the Father's Day Forum at Bridges Bookstore. If you are a daughter, a son, a mother or a wife... or even a father yourself, you are invited to sit down and pay a special attention to the head of the households as they speak from their minds and hearts! Let's hear it from them this time around. Let us celebrate Father's Day with the men in our lives with a new meaning and passion!

Golden Harbour Seafood Restaurant now open

GOLDEN HARBOUR SEAFOOD RESTAURANT SPECIALIZING IN AUTHENTIC Hong Kong seafood cuisine is now open and operational at 138 West Avenue, near North Edsa, Quezon City. It is set in a spacious area that has a capacity for more than 200 guests and is outfitted with a main dining area that can accommodate up to 80 guests for private, family and group dining. Its second floor is a function area that has a 150-guest capacity suitable for parties, weddings and any special events. The interior design is accentuated with a mixture of round and rectangular tables complemented with a big aquarium that prominently enlivens the main dining area, teeming with live edible seafood including prawns, king fish, crabs, 'lapu-lapu', lobster, suahe and edible eels and turtles. Completing its functional services are well-trained staff, a veteran team of cooks headed by a Cantonese-speaking Hong Kong chef who prepares authentic Hong Kong seafood and lauriat cuisine very much unique and distinct in the Quezon City area. Special entries in the Golden Harbour menu are specialty dishes, a variety of seafood including fish, prawns, squid crabs, lobsters and shells, dimsum, noodles soup, rice toppings and an array of meat menu beef, pork, chicken, roasts and vegetables. Apart from that, it also offers short orders, family dine-in, lauriat packages and delivery in nearby Quezon City areas. It offers a 20-percent discount opening promo for dine-in and cash purchases up to June 30.

Make everyday Father's Day!

FATHERS ARE THE BIGGEST SOURCE OF STRENGTH FOR A child. In the innocent eyes of a child, the father is perceived to be the all-powerful, most knowledgeable, truly affectionate and the most important person in the family. For daughters, fathers are the first men they adore and look up to. While for sons their fathers are the strongest person they know and someone they aspire to emulate. Even for the grown-ups, fathers are someone whom they look up to for the most experienced and honest advice that is always in the best of our interest. For this great figure in our life that we know as father - it becomes our utmost duty to pay our humblest tribute to his very special day, just what like Dr. P adult diapers does. Dr. P gives assurance for Daddy to enjoy his day without any hassle from incontinence. That is because Dr. P has superior features that gives comfort and security to Daddy. Dr. P has super absorbent pads locking the urine inside as it dries up, making it comfortable for the wearer. It has adjustable tapes for easy adjustment to achieve better fit on waist. It has wetness indicator for convenience to hint when its time to change the diaper. Its high speed channels evenly distribute urine maximizing usage of the pad. Plus, it is the only adult diaper that has anti-bacteria action that effectively controls growth of harmful germs as it neutralizes unpleasant odor. Dr. P adult diapers is exclusively distributed by JS Unitrade Merchandise Inc and is available in all leading supermarkets, groceries and drugstores nationwide.

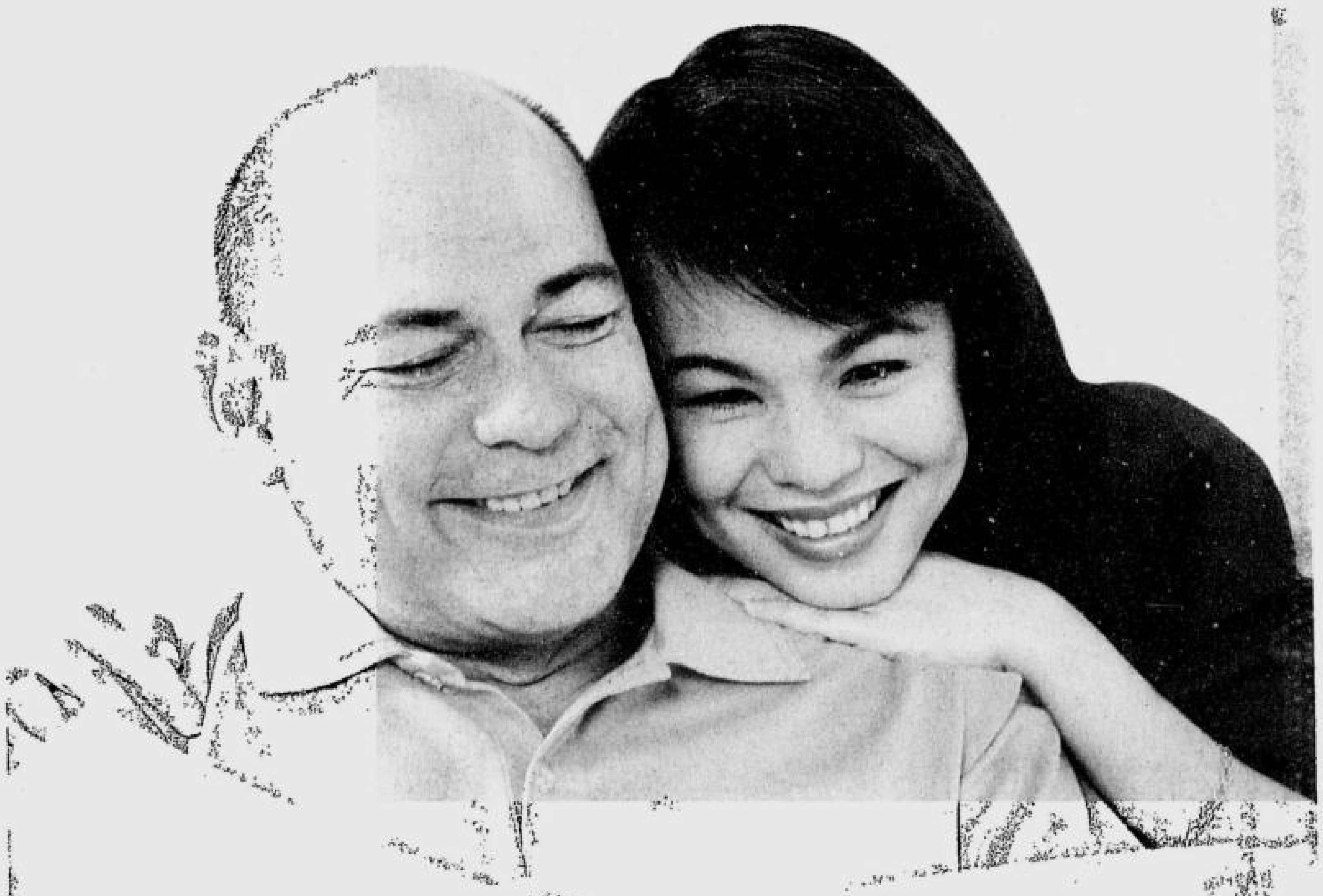
A big treat for Daddy on Dad's Day

DADDY AND HIS BIG HEART DESERVES NO LESS THAN A BIG TREAT, AND THE BEST PLACE TO GET big treats for big Daddy is at Oliver's Super Sandwiches. This Father's Day, Oliver's Super Sandwiches is introducing its "Big Treat for Big Daddy" promo, where Dad and his family dining in at any Oliver's Super Sandwiches outlet gets a big and delectable treat that's terribly hard to resist. From June 4-30, Dad and his family get to enjoy a package set menu for four worth only P599, which includes a Big Sandwich for Big Daddy. This whopping delight contains layers of Roast beef, Cajun chicken with ruby tomatoes, Tagaytay greens and julienne apples with Tuna Nicoise salad. Plus, this extraordinarily big meal includes iced tea or fresh lemonade and 4 pieces of brownies. Not yet lip-smackingly good for you? Then go bring Big Daddy to Oliver's, and surprise him with the Big Treat for Big Daddy promo. It's surely one Father's Day pleasure he won't soon forget.

17 Father's Day

A Tribute to DADS

Ha-P si DADDY!



Nothing pains us more than the sight of our beloved father suffering from incontinence. Being in control of our bladder or bowel functions depends on our awareness of bodily sensations (such as the feeling of having a full bladder) and the memory of how, when and where to respond. When intellect and memory decline with age, then incontinence may occur.

For a father who has given the best years of his life for his family, you can return this love by taking care of his needs in the twilight years. And on Father's Day, why not honor him with a special dinner or reunion with the family?

If he feels anxious about going out in public, alleviate his discomfort by giving him quality adult diapers. These will prevent embarrassing accidents, reducing his anxieties and allowing him to enjoy the company of friends and loved ones.

This Father's Day, give your dad the best care possible. Take-away his worries by providing him with the *No. 1 adult diaper* in the country *Dr. P Adult Diapers.* It has super absorbent feature to keep him feeling comfortable and secured. It is the only adult diaper with antibacterial properties to effectively control the growth of harmful germs, neutralizing bad odor. It offers the best protection at an affordable price. Because your father deserves to enjoy his special day.

Dr. P

HAPPINESS IS Dr. P ADULT DIAPERS

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THE #1 ADULT DIAPER

Inaalala ang happy memories
kasama si Daddy
kasi sa Dr.P comfortable
siya at walang worries.

sa Presyong ABOT-KAYA!

Hats off to you dad at the Century Park Hotel

STILL THINKING OF A MEMORABLE SURPRISE FOR DAD ON Father's Day? Think about this--he may not be the type that is easily touched by a colorful bouquet of flowers, impressed with a luxurious basket of bath set, or another tie that he cannot even use. However, a wonderful day of dining, indulgence, entertainment with style, and bonding with the whole family are some things he definitely looks forward to do and not to mention, the most thoughtful gift of all. Take the whole family at the Century Park Hotel as we give the man of all season a special hat off celebration.

Dining at Century Tsukiji - For a dad who is an extreme fan of authentic Japanese dishes, this is the best time to take him at Century Tsukiji. Enjoy the light flavors of summer in Japan this June, with Century Tsukiji's bountiful liverfishes. Much more, all dads who will dine with their family on Father's Day will receive a special appetizer or soup, a delectable start off for the celebration.

Indulgence at Café in the Park - Dad's walloping appetite will surely be satisfied at Café in the Park, with enticing selections that will surely delight. For only P950++ for adults and 550++ for children 12 years old and below, bond with the whole family and enjoy the bountiful selection of Western and Asian fare.

Wine and dine at Atrium Lounge or Harry's Bar, Top of the Century - Century Park Hotel's entertainment outlets are also a must-visit. Whether you choose to be at the 19th floor or at the lobby, dad will surely love the relaxing ambience, entertainment, and special wine selections at the Top of the Century and Atrium Lounge. For a dad that has a fine taste for sophistication, be sure to let him try Atrium Lounge's Special Drink of the Month, Tune in June.

Delightful choices at the Deli Snack - Sweet, soft, addicting, and comforting--these may be your very own father. On his special day, give him something that exactly describes who he is. Bring home today a scrumptious Caramel Torte, a luscious combination of rich caramel sauce, crunchy walnut in a soft sponge cake from the Deli Snack.

For inquiries and reservations, call 528-8888. The Century Park Hotel is Owned and Managed by Maranaw Hotels and Resort Corp.

Luxe gifts for Dad at The Podium

SELECTING THAT SPECIAL GIFT FOR DAD has never been easy - after all, what do you give someone who - well has everything - and trends to spoil you with everything?

As we celebrate Father's Day today, give Dad a gift that not only highlights his special interests, but also has a priceless quality because these were so well though of. We went around the stores of The Podium, the upscale mall in the Ortigas area, and we came up with this list:

A gift of spirits. Give Dad a toast on Father's Day as Ralph's Wine and Spirits suggests its high end premium Chilean wines. Highly recommended are the Alpha Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon wines of the prestigious Montes lines. Ralph's also has a Father's Day 25 percent to 30 percent discount on selected red and white wines from Portugal, Spain, Austria and Italy.

A gift of knowledge and inspiration. If your Dad loves a good read, Ink & Stone has a wonderful selection of books for his special Dear Dad and Father's Are Special, as well as Go, Put your Strengths to Work by Marcus Buckingham, a must-have for those in business. If he like political or historical books, check out Al Gore's The Assault on Reason, his second book about global warming; Zbigniew Breinski's Second Chance, a memoir about three presidents and the crisis of the American superpower; and John Perkins' The Secret Story of the American Empire.

A gift of savoir-faire. There's nothing that evokes Old World elegance like a cigar - think Winston Churchill, Franklin Roosevelt. If Dad likes a good smoke, Tabacalera Cigars suggests its Don Juan Urquijo like of Robusta (medium bodied and spicy) and Vintage (with a smooth butter textured smoke) cigars; as well as its Tabacalera Pyramid, which has the taste of cedar in its sweet undertones. A must have for cigar lovers is the 1881 Narra 30 that comes with a wooden case and a hygrometer for cigar temperature.

A gift of grooming. The Body Shop has interesting grooming and skin care packages for men, which should mage great gifts for Dad on Father's Day. Some suggestions: Of a Man Hair and Body Wash, a three in one cleanser, shampoo and skin conditioner for all skin types; as well as its Arber and Kistna sets with hair and body wash, perfume, and after-shave balm.

A gift of weekend wear. Izod has great stuff for Dad to wear during family weekends, golf games, or during his time out with his buddies. Highly recommended are Izod's relaxed jeans and shirt made of prima cotton in a tin can; its shirts in cocona and cool-fx materials for active dads; hanging travel kids and water repellant bags for jet setting Dads.

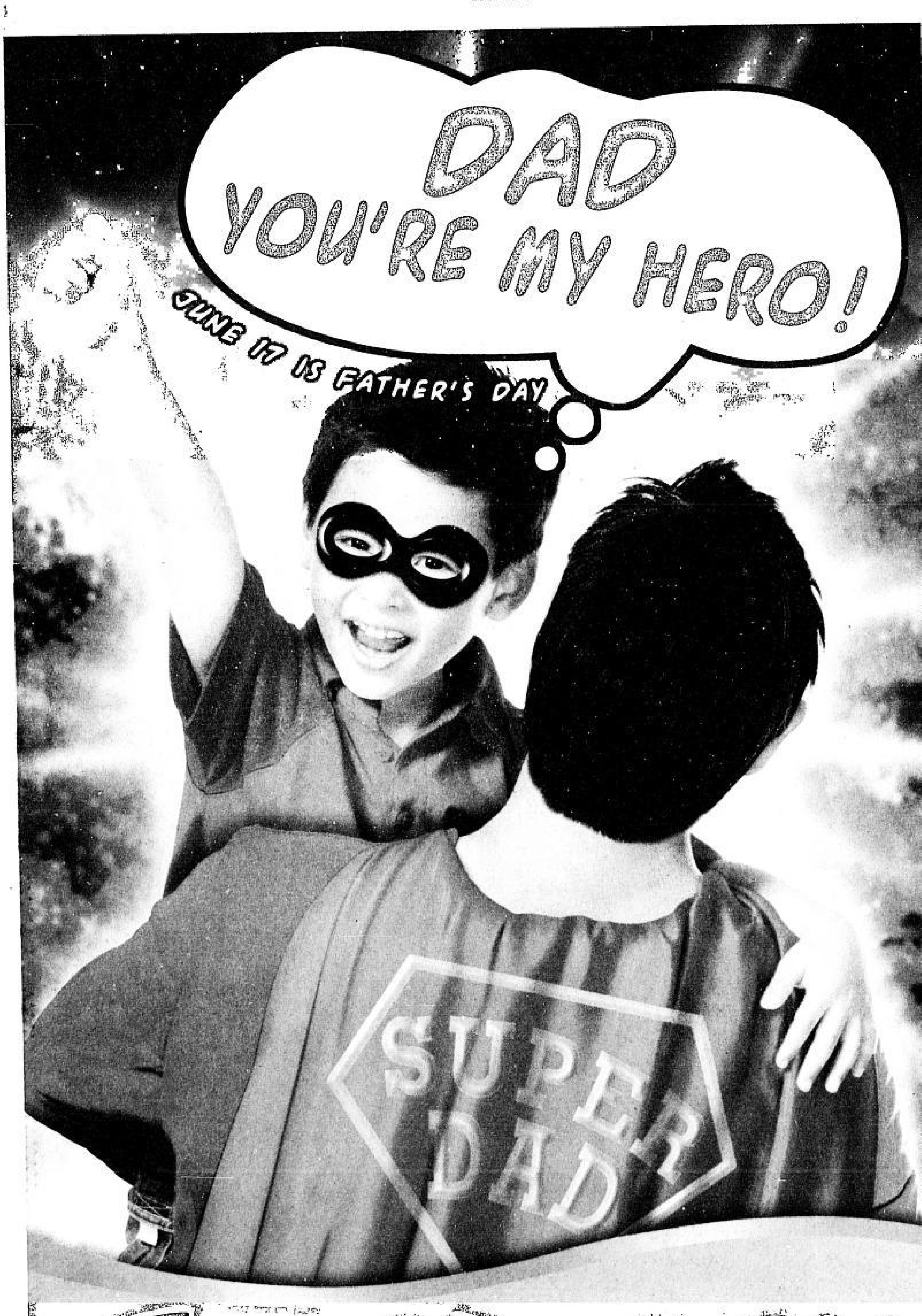
Likewise, Columbia Sportswear, which has been known for years for its outerwear and outdoor gear, has a special Father's Day promotion, offering a 10 percent discount on all items for men from June 15 to 17. That will be the best time to check out great gear like water resistant and authentic Northway jacket, the all mesh trail Caprock Shoes and the Columbia Sportwear Shield Titanium Bag.

A gift of travel. If Dad loves to travel or spend time in the great outdoors, check out Victorinox, long known for its Swiss knife lines. Some great suggestions: the Ranger Swiss Knife with its multiple functions, as well as the Lumber Pack belt bag made of ballistic nylon.

A gift of music. Astroplus has a wonderful selection of music that Dad grew up with, as well as modern music that he loves to relax by. These include oldies like Cliff Richard's Two's Company, Tony Bennet's Duets; an American Classic, and selections of Lifetime Memories from Frank Sinatra and Nat King Cole, as well as contemporary hits like Vittorio's In the Hands of Love and Michael Buble's Call Me Irresponsible. Casino Royale, the latest James Bond adventure on DVD is also a great gift.

Ralph's Wine and Spirits, Ink & Stone, Tabacalera Cigars, The Body Shop, Izod, Columbia Sportswear, Victorinox and Astroplus are all located at The Podium.

And if you're in the mall with Dad, you might want to watch great shows on June 15 - Trumpet's High School Musical at the Lounge Area and the Aquarela Band Bossa at the Chill Area. Celebrate Father's Day at The Podium.



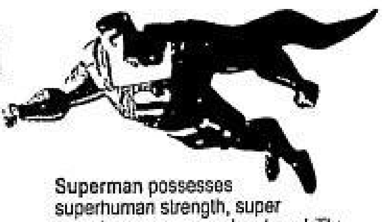
TOY KINGDOM
THE AMAZING TOY STORE!

SM MEGAMALL Upper Ground Floor, Bldg. A • SM SOUTHMALL Upper Ground Floor • SM CITY CEBU Third Floor • SM CITY FAIRVIEW Upper Ground Floor • SM CITY BACOOR Upper Ground Floor • SM CITY ILOILO Lower Ground Floor • SM CITY DAVAO Second Floor • SM CITY PAMPANGA Ground Floor, Annex 2 • SM CITY LUCENA Second Floor

SM CITY BAGUIO Second Floor • SM CITY MARILAO Second Floor • SM MAKATI Third Floor, SM Annex • SM CITY BATANGAS Ground Floor • THE PODIUM Third Floor • V-MALL Second Floor • SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO Second Floor • SM MALL OF ASIA Second Level, Main Mall • SM NORTH EDSA Third Floor THE BLOCK

My DAD the SUPERHERO at TOY KINGDOM

Many of our Dads grew up idolizing comic book superheroes, who inspired them with their extraordinary powers and abilities, and their unfaltering crusade to save the world.



Superman possesses superhuman strength, super speed, super senses, invulnerability, X-ray vision and the ability to fly.

Superman Fight 'N Fly FX Cape with 6 fighting and flying sounds.

And guess what, today they are our superheroes as they protect us, guide us, and yes, amaze us with their abilities. Better still, the same superheroes that Dad admired are now thrilling a new generation of kids and kids-at-heart with collectible items at Toy Kingdom.

As Toy Kingdom pays tribute to Superheroes this June, check out this great stuff at the store, which make perfect Father's Day gifts for our own superheroes.

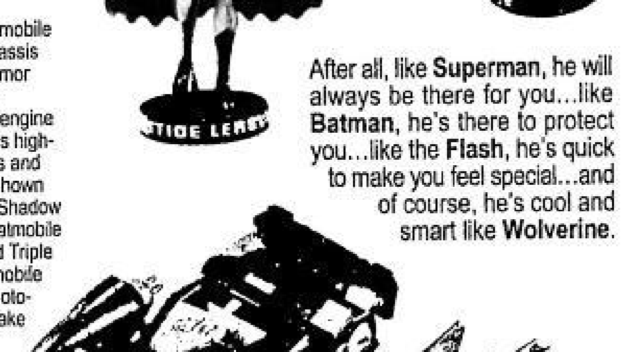
Flash has the ability to move at incredible speeds.

JUSTICE LEAGUE

Batman has genius-level intelligence and is at peak human ability in many areas like martial arts and acrobatics.

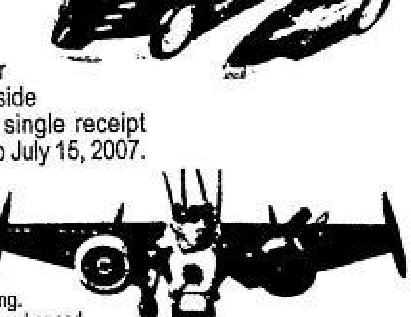
Batman's Batmobile includes a chassis with heavy armor plating, high-performance engine and numerous high-tech weapons and equipment. Shown here are the Shadow Tek version Batmobile (far right) and Triple Mission Batmobile (right) with moto-booster to make it move.

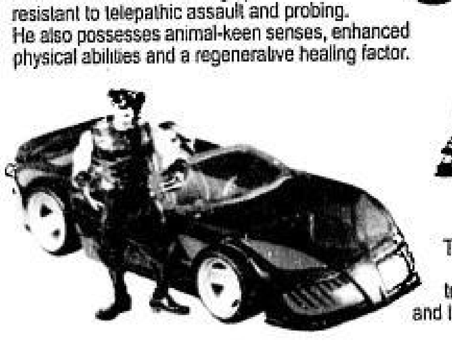
After all, like **Superman**, he will always be there for you...like **Batman**, he's there to protect you...like the **Flash**, he's quick to make you feel special...and of course, he's cool and smart like **Wolverine**.



Toy Kingdom will also give free ISP Bonanza Internet cards (or *Priston Tale* Gaming Cards outside Metro Manila) for every ₱500 single receipt purchase of toys from June 15 to July 15, 2007.

Wolverine has retractable adamantium-laced bone claws that can slice through any known solid material and his mind is highly resistant to telepathic assault and probing. He also possesses animal-keen senses, enhanced physical abilities and a regenerative healing factor.





The Wolverine Assault Vehicle fires 2 secret missiles, its hood transforms into an air-assault glider and its hidden launcher fires 4 missiles.

Give a superhero to your own superhero! Check these out at all Toy Kingdom Express outlets at SM Department Store and all Toy Kingdom stores located at SM Makati, The Podium, V-Mall, SM Megamall, the Block at SM City North Edsa, SM Southmall, SM City Fairview, and the SM Mall of Asia. These can also be found at Toy Kingdom stores located at SM Supermalls in the provincial areas -- in Pampanga, Lucena, Marilao, Baguio, Bacoor, and Batangas in Luzon; as well as Cebu, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, and Davao in the Vizmin area.

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SUNDAY, JUNE 17, 2007

PITC
Philippine International Trading Corporation

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE IMPORTATION OF ANY RICE VARIETY / QUALITY

The Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC) invites all interested Farmers Cooperatives / Groups / Associations / Private Rice Traders with valid and updated 2007 **NFA License to Import** to submit Letters of Intent (LOIs) on or before 29 June 2007 for the Importation of 10,000 MT any Rice Variety / Quality to arrive not later than 31 August 2007.

Minimum volume to be allocated per qualified participant shall be 500 MT but not to exceed 1,000 MT. Should the total quantity received from LOIs submitted exceed 10,000 MT, the allocation per importer shall be adjusted on a pro-rata basis.

The Terms of Reference and Guidelines / Mechanics will be available for issuance during office hours starting 19 June 2007, weekdays only, from Imports Department at the 10th Floor NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City and with telephone nos. 892-1560, 892-1627, and 818-9801 locals 421, 327 and 334.

(Sgd.) **MARIO M. LEYGO**
Vice President

(PDI--June 17, 2007)

ISABELA – 1 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Victoria, Alicia, Isabela
Tel. No. (078) 6627103/6627983/6627810
Fax. No. (078) 6627103/6627917

The Isabela – 1 Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ISELCO – 1) wishes to invite interested suppliers for Public Bidding for the supply and delivery of the following:

a) Electronic KWHM, 10 (30) AMP, single phase
b) Steel Pole, 30 footer; 3.0mm plate thickness
c) XLPE insulated, MV power cable, copper taped shield, PVC jacket, 100 mm2, 15kv
d) Terminal lug, single hole, long barrel, 4/0
e) Termination kit, outdoor, cold shrink, 15 kv

Interested parties may secure bid documents and checklist of qualification requirements at the office of the PBAC Secretary at Institutional Services Manager's office and look for Ms. Luzviminda D. Torres or call cel no. 09189429720 or call Engr. Romeo M. Villacampa at Cel No. 09189226973.

Schedule of bidding activities shall be as follows:

PARTICULARS	DATE/TIME
Issuance of bid documents/checklist of qualification requirements.	June 19 - July 03, 2007 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Pre-Qualification conference	July 04, 2007 / 9:00 AM
Submission/Opening of Bids	July 04, 2007 / 1:00 AM

Checklist of Qualification Requirements are the following: (To be submitted during the pre-qualification conference)

1. Non-refundable filing fee in the amount of two thousand pesos only (PhP2,000.00) in the form of cash.
2. Complete set of legal documents of the company, SEC Registration, Articles of Incorporation and by laws, company profile, business registration and license papers.
3. Audited Financial Statement (Balance sheet and Income Statement) duly filed/stamped received by BIR.
4. If represented by an agent of the firm, it must have a letter of Authorization from the President/Manager or Owner.
5. Posting/depositing the required BID BOND.

The ISELCO - 1 reserves the right to reject any or all bids for valid and justified reason, waive any defect thereon and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the cooperative (ISELCO - 1). The ISELCO - 1 likewise assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that the award shall be made.

(Sgd.) Engr. **ROMEO M. VILLACAMPA**
PBAC Chairman

(Sgd.) Engr. **VIRGILIO L. MONTANO**
General Manager

(PDI – June 17, 18 & 19, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
Luzon Central Cluster
Tarlac City

INVITATION TO BID

Social Security System through its Disposal Committee invites interested bidders/buyers for the following transportation equipment on a **"Cash, Per Unit and As Is Where Is" basis:**

(Toyota Tamaraw FX, Wagon Diesel)

Item No.	Particulars	Location/ Place of Storage	Minimum Bid Amount
1	Plate No. SAE-743 Model 1994	Garage-SSS Tarlac Hub Branch Office	P47,000.00
2	Plate No. SEA-636 Model 1994	SSS Alaminos Branch Office	P63,600.00
3	Plate No. SAE-852 Model 1994	SSS Bodega-Sitio Paroba Carangian, Tarlac City	P56,800.00
4	Plate No. SAE-851 Model 1994	SSS Baliuag Branch Office	P46,100.00
5	Plate No. SEA-649 Model 1994	Garage-SSS Tarlac Hub Branch Office	P49,400.00
6	Plate No. SEA-223 Model 1994	SSS Bodega-Sitio Paroba Carangian, Tarlac City	P53,300.00
7	Plate No. SAU-553 Model 1994	SSS Bodega-Sitio Paroba Carangian, Tarlac City	P39,000.00
8	Plate No. SAE-746 Model 1994	SSS Bodega-Sitio Paroba Carangian, Tarlac City	P65,200.00

Schedule of Activities:

Issuance of Bid Form/Instruction to Bidders & General Conditions	June 25 - 29, 2007
Pre-bid Conference	July 02, 2007 (9:00 A.M.-11:00 A.M.)
Inspection	July 02 & 03, 2007
Submission and Opening of Bids	July 10, 2007 (2:00 P.M.)

The Bid Documents can be secured from the Disposal Committee Secretariat with office address at SSS Tarlac Hub Branch, Macabulos Drive, Tarlac City upon submission of the following documents:

a) Barangay clearance and photocopy of voter's identification card;
b) Special Power of Attorney in case of authorized representative.

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH BIDDER'S BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH, MANAGER'S CHECK/CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE.

SSS reserves the right to reject any or all of the bids without offering any reasons, waive formality and informality and/or defects in the bids received and to make an award to the bidder/buyer whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. SSS assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid nor does SSS guarantee that an award will be made.

For inquiry, please call the Disposal Committee Secretariat SSS Tarlac Hub Branch Office at Tel. No. (045) 9824488/9826967.

(Sgd.) **MA. MAYLENE M. SANCHEZ**
Chairperson
Disposal Committee-Luzon Central Cluster

(PDI - June 17, 2007)

Madecor Hill Development & Management Corporation

an innovative developer of condominium or resort farms, invites proposal from property marketing firms catering to the A market, Leisure Class, investors, OFW and expatriate for its flagship project, the Fragrant Hill Leisure Gardens. The initial phase is a 9-ha area in Bamban, Tarlac along the fringe of Clark Special Economic Zone, about 1.5 hr drive from National Capital Region (NCR).

INVITATION for PROPOSAL for MARKETING SERVICES of REAL ESTATE

Interested parties will be accompanied to the site for visit and briefing on the requirements before preparing proposal. The deadline for submission is July 15, 2007.

For site visit contact Marco at
(049)536-3605, (0917)887-5969 or (0917)500-0503
Also visit our website: www.fragrant-hill.com
Please submit proposal and references to
1954 Madecor Hill, Tungtungin, Los Baños, Laguna
or email to MHDMC@fragrant-hill.com

Someone admired and respected........................
Someone to be proud of........................
Someone dependable.................

We look up to you. And we are reminded to be the best that we can be.
We turn to you for counsel, and you challenge our capabilities to conquer tribulations so that we discover we can fly to greater heights of achievement.
You listen to us and hear things through. And our fears vanish to give way to hope and confidence.
Your laughter reminds us that the quintessence of life is the spirit and selfless love.
As you join your hands and kneel with us in prayer, we are reminded of the open line to a loving Father in heaven. You give us the priceless legacy of faith.
You are all these to all of us and much more.

It means so much to have you for a father.
For what we are today and what we can be tomorrow, we owe to you.
And for this we are very grateful.

On this special day for fathers, and every day,
we would like you to know that WE LOVE YOU VERY MUCH.
We pray for your good health and long life.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

From: Sales Associates, Management and Staff of
PROVIDENT PLANS INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION
Valero Plaza, 124 Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City

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Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **Cresencia Sta. Isabel Yu** was extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc. No. 121, 122, and 123; Page No. 29; Book No. III; Series of 2007 under Notary Public Atty. Jose C. Reyes.

(PDI - June 17, 24 & July 1, 2007)

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dti
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of various office equipment for DTI with an approved budget of Thirteen million six hundred eighty-two thousand pesos (Php 13,682,000.00).

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting 18 June 2007 up to 5 P.M. of 25 June 2007 during office hours at the DTI-BAC Secretariat, 6/F Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City c/o Mr. Maynard R. Peralta, with telephone number 751-5984, after paying a non-refundable fee of Thirteen thousand pesos (Php 13,000.00). A pre-bid conference will be held on 25 June 2007, 1:30 P.M. at the Center Conference Room, 6th Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

Deadline for the submission of the eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals, and the opening of bids will be on 9 July 2007, 1:30 P.M. at the Center Conference Room, 6th Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. The DTI Bids and Awards Committee will not entertain late bidders.

The DTI reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract in any of the situations enumerated in Section 41 of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and its implementing rules and regulations, without the DTI assuming any responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) **MARIA LOURDES T. BAUA**
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson, DTI Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – June 17, 2007)

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dti
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of janitorial and allied services for DTI and its attached agencies for a period of sixteen (16) months, with an approved budget of Twenty-nine million pesos (Php 29,000,000.00).

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting 18 June 2007 up to 5 P.M. of 25 June 2007 during office hours at the DTI-BAC Secretariat, 6/F Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City c/o Mr. Maynard R. Peralta, with telephone number 751-5984, after paying a non-refundable fee of Ten Thousand Pesos (Php 10,000.00). A pre-bid conference will be held on 25 June 2007, 9:30 A.M. at the Center Conference Room, 6th Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

Deadline for the submission of the eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals, and the opening of bids will be on 9 July 2007, 9:30 A.M. at the Center Conference Room, 6th Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. The DTI Bids and Awards Committee will not entertain late bidders.

The DTI reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract in any of the situations enumerated in Section 41 of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and its implementing rules and regulations, without the DTI assuming any responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) **MARIA LOURDES T. BAUA**
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson, DTI Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – June 17, 2007)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
CITY OF ILOILO

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), Iloilo City invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid on the following project:

Name of Project : Rental of Heavy Equipment for Clearing of Old Mounds of Garbage
Project Location : Calajunan Dumpsite, Brgy. Calajunan, Mandurriao, I.C.
Approved Budget for the Contract : P4,352,000.00
Source of Fund : SB#5 CY (DBP Loan-Site Development)
Contract Duration : 2,560 Hours
Scope of Work : Rental of Equipment & Clearing of Garbage
Contractor's PCAB License : At least Small B

The Schedule of Bidding Activities is as follows:

Period for the Submission of Letter of Intent	June 18 – June 27, 2007
Period for the Issuance of Eligibility Forms and other Bid Documents	July 02 – July 05, 2007
Pre-Bid Conference at the City Legal Office Conference Room	July 10, 2007, 10:00 AM
Last Day of Submission of Bids in Sealed Envelopes (c/o BAC Secretariat)	July 24, 2007, 10:00 AM
Opening of Bids in Sealed Envelopes at the City Legal Office Conference Room	July 24, 2007, 10:00 AM

Complete sets of Eligibility Requirements may be obtained from the Office of the BAC Secretariat at the General Services Office, City Hall, Iloilo City. Duly accomplished Eligibility Forms shall be submitted in sealed envelope addressed to the BAC Chairman, c/o BAC Secretariat.

Eligible contractors may obtain the Bid Tender Documents at the Office of the BAC Secretariat, General Services Office, City Hall, Iloilo City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand (P2,000.00) Pesos on the above prescribed period.

Minimum Number of Equipments Required for Excavation, dozing, Leveling, Compacting & soil covering:

Bulldozer - Two (2) Units
Backhoe Excavator - Two (2) Units

Prospective Bidders shall signify their conformance to the Bidding Terms and Conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The criteria to be used by BAC in the Eligibility Check of Prospective Bidders shall be on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis.

The provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other applicable rules and regulations shall govern all particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract.

The BAC reserves the right to accept or reject all Bids or part thereof, to waive formality therein or to accept such bids or to award any work that is considered most advantageous to the Local Government Unit.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. EDGARDO GIL**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI–June 17, 2007)

Will Decena AND ASSOCIATES
Our Company, is in need of individuals to fill-in the following positions.

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USA VISA/IMMIGRATION SEMINAR AND MEDICAL STAFF JOBS

June 29 – July 1, 2007
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Speaker Direct from USA:
ATTY. ERICK DIVINAGRACIA
USA IMMIGRATION LAWYER
EASTSIDE LAW GROUP BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON, USA

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USA STAFF SEARCH AND PLACEMENT
MARKITECH, LLC
Kirkland & Everett, Washington, USA

Admission : P1,500 includes: seminar fee, job application, snacks

SEMINAR SCHEDULE:
June 29, 2007 (Fri) 9:00-11:00, 1:00-3:00, 4:00-6:00
June 30, 2007 (Sat) 9:00-11:00, 1:00-3:00, 4:00-6:00
July 1, 2007 (Sun) 9:00-11:00, 1:00-3:00, 4:00-6:00

Reservation recommended. Email to:
contact@markitech.us

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

THIS IS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC THAT **NISSAN U.N. AVENUE MANILA** & **NISSAN MANILA** ARE 2 DIFFERENT ENTITIES.

(PDI – June 17, 2007)

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Dirct Maid Yaya Int'kook Driver Boy 7263865

DRVR MAID COOK 8902722

MAIDCUKYA'2DRIVER8968933

Yaya,Cook,H'maid 8957507

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION STOCKS CERTIFICATE NO 01621130 99564079 97461433 96351774 95258557 95220035 FOR 569 SHARES ISSUED TO ROWENA AGUILA WAS REPORTED LOST. IF NO CONTEST RECEIVED, NEW CERTIFICATE WILL BE ISSUED. (PDI-JUNE 3,10&17, 2007)

AUCTION SALE

Filipinas Pawnshop Malanday, Corp. #505 Mac Arthur Hi-Way, Malanday Val. City, All Unredeemed Pledges of DEC 2006 & JAN 2007, Will be Auctioned on JUNE. 25., 2:30p.m. Lanuza & Sons-Auctioneer.(PDI Jun 17, 2007)

Marilao-Filipinas Pawnshop, M & R Bldg., Tabing-ilog Marilao,Bulacan. All Unredeemed Pledges of DEC 2006 will be Auctioned on JUNE 25 8:00am.Lanuza & Sons Auctioneer.
(PDI- JUNE 17, 2007)

Meycauayan-Filipinas Pawnshop,Allw Complex, Calvario,Meyc.Bulacan. All Unredeemed Pledges of DEC.2006 willl be Auctioned on June 25, 10:00am.Lanuza & Sons Autioneer.
(PDI- JUNE 17, 2007)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JACINTO CO and late FELIZA T. CO covered by TCT #'s 17821,17820,357151,RT-49991 has been extrajudicially settled by thier heirs as per Doc #s 51 & 52 Page 12 Book XIV Series of 2007 before Notary Public Gervacio B. Ortiz,Jr. of Makati City.
(PDI-June 3,10 & 17,2007)

Notice is hereby given that the esate of late CONCEPCION M. MAYO has been extrajudicially settled among their heirs before Notary Public Antonio D. Figueroa of Marikina City Per Page No. 277,Doc.No. 57 Book No. XXX,Series 2007 (PDI June 10,17,24,2007)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Philippine National Bank stock certificate with Serial No. 007428 for 1,000 shares issued to FELIX ZEPEDA was reported lost.If no contest is received new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-June 3,10 & 17,2007)

Notice is hereby given that ARELLANO UNIVERSITY Orig Stock Cert # 3722 # Of Shrs 20, 3895 -22, 4043-8 in favor of MANUEL / LOURDES LAGMAN were lost. If no contest received New Cert will be issued.
(PDI-June 3, 10, 17 2007)

Notice is hereby given that Cebu Holdings, Inc. Stock Cert. No. 00023920 with 6,914 shares, Stock Cert. No. 00030055 with 3,457 shares and Stock Cert. No. 00065629 with 2,592 shares all issued to Frederick F. Salandanan were lost. If no contest received, new certificates will be issued. (PDI-June 10, 17 & 24, 2007)

A. G. ARAJA CONSTRUCTION

FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

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With relevant knowledge and experience in supervision, planning, estimating, quality control & documentations.

QA / QC HEAD

Must be Engineering graduate. Highly capable in inspection of Civil, Structural and Architectural works, all piping and electrical lay-out. With relevant knowledge and experience in CSA and Hydro-testing, methodology and turn-over documents.

PLANNER / SCHEDULER

Must be very familiar in all phases of Engineering planning and scheduling. Must be knowledgeable in MS Project and PRIMAVERA and with technical knowledge in industrial plant construction.

PROCUREMENT ENGINEER

Must be Engineering graduate. Familiar w/ Industrial Plant Construction materials. Must be result-oriented and has keen eyes on details. Highly capable in material tracking and inventory report.

AUTOCADD DESIGNERS/DETAILERS/OPERATORS

With mechanical background, preferably knowledgeable in 2D designs and combined services drawings.

General Qualifications:
- **Male/female not more than 35 y/o**
- **W/ at least 2-3 years work experience in construction preferably in petrochemicals, pharmaceutical & semi conductors industrial setting.**
- **Computer literate**
- **Can work under pressure w/ minimum supervision**
- **Should possess strong personality & good communication skills**

Please apply in person at:
A. G. ARAJA CONSTRUCTION
B7 L39 Mercado Village, Pulong Sta. Cruz, Sta. Rosa, Laguna, 4026
(02) 520-8154 / 520-8159 loc. 101
(049) 837-2672
agaraja.hrd@gmail.com

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
SAN LAZARO HOSPITAL
Quiricada St., Sta. Cruz
Manila
Telephone Nos.: 732-37-76 to 78; 732-31-06
E-mail Address: snlazaro@doh.gov.ph & mccll@info.com.ph

SLH-BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The San Lazaro Hospital hereby invites sealed written bids from interested and eligible suppliers/manufacturers/retailers and contractors to participate in the bidding for the procurement and delivery of **Hospital Supplies and Materials, for the 2nd semester, July-December 2007 and Hospital Equipment & Semi-Expendable Materials CY 2007.** Funding sources are from the GOP Allotment for Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses for Supplies and Materials, Revolving Funds from Drugs and Medicines and Hospital Retained Incomes for Hospital Equipment.

Application forms for ELIGIBILITY shall be available upon payment of non-refundable fees of **Three Hundred Pesos (Php300.00),** for Hospital Supplies and Materials and **Five Hundred Pesos (Php500.00)** for Hospital Equipment from **June 12, 2007 up to the date before the submission and opening of the bids** 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the BAC Secretariat, Property & Supply Office, San Lazaro Hospital.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility and supporting documents shall **not be later than the day before the scheduled date of the submission and opening of bid per category.** Please bring original copies of all submitted documents for proper authentication.

Interested Bidders can obtain the **BID DOCUMENTS** to the BAC Secretariat, located at the Property & Supply Office, San Lazaro Hospital from **June 18, 2007 up to the date before the opening of the bids** by category and upon submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) and upon payment of non-refundable fees as indicated per category. Payment shall be strictly on a cash basis at the hospital Collection Unit.

CATEGORIES	APPROVED BUDGET COST (ABC)	CONTRACT PERIOD	AMOUNT
• Drugs/Medicines Supplies (REGULAR/REVOLVING)	Php 30,000,000.00	July - December, 2007	Php 5,000.00
• Medical Supplies	Php 2,000,000.00	July - December, 2007	Php 1,000.00
• Medical Gases & Oxygen	Php 5,000,000.00	July - December, 2007	Php 2,500.00
• Radiology Supplies	Php 500,000.00	July - December, 2007	Php 500.00
• Dietary Foodstuff Supplies	Php 3,500,000.00	July - December, 2007	Php 1,000.00
• Laboratory Supplies & Reagents	Php 5,700,000.00	July - December, 2007	Php 2,000.00
• Hospital Equipment	Php 4,000,000.00	30-45 days per receipt of PO	Php 1,500.00

General **PRE-BID CONFERENCE** will be held on June 27, 2007, 9:00 a.m. at the SLH Amphitheater, San Lazaro Hospital, Quiricada St., Sta. Cruz, Manila unless announced otherwise.

BID QUOTATIONS must be submitted to the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat at the time/dates specified above, which said bids will be opened to the Public on:

CATEGORIES	OPENING	SCHEDULE
• **Drugs and Medicines Supplies**	9:01 am	July 11, 2007
• Laboratory Supplies/Reagents	1:31 pm	
• **Medical Supplies/Med Gases & Oxygen**	9:01 am	July 12, 2007
• Dietary Foodstuff Supplies	1:30 pm	
• Radiology Supplies	2:30 pm	
• **Hospital Equipment**	3:00 pm	

Each **BID** must be accompanied by a **Bid Security** in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than, a percentage of the lump sum per category of the **Approved Budget Cost (ABC)** participated in any form as indicated in the Bid Data Sheet (BDS).

All above cited activities shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

For further details, please contact the BAC Secretariat at telephone nos. 3099552 and 3099517 (Property & Supply Office).

THE SLH-BAC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL BID, TO ANNUL THE BIDDING PROCESS, AND REJECTS ALL BIDS AT ANYTIME PRIOR TO THE AWARD OF THE CONTRACT, WITHOUT THEREBY INCURRING ANY LIABILITY TO THE AFFECTED BIDDERS OR ANY OBLIGATION TO INFORM THE AFFECTED BIDDER/BIDDERS ON THE REASONS FOR DOING SO. SLH-BAC ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY BIDS NOR DEEM IT GUARANTEED THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) ELEONORITA E. REYES
Chairperson
SLH-Bids and Awards Committee

Noted .
(Sgd.) ARTURO B. CABANBAN, MD, MHA
Medical Center Chief II
Posted at the G-EPS Website
(PDI – June 10 and 17, 2007)

SAGITTARIUS MINES, INC.

A Mineral Development Partnership Caring for People and Nature

Sagittarius Mines, Inc., a mining firm based in Tampakan, South Cotabato, is intensifying its community engagement initiatives for the host communities and would like to receive expressions of interest from organizations that are willing to assist and/or work with the company in the following areas:

1. Capacity-building initiatives for local communities
2. Community development initiatives
3. Elaboration of community development plans
4. SWOT analysis with local communities
5. Participatory planning for local communities
6. Social capital
7. Social Research
8. Social Impact Assessment
9. Enhancement of local organizations, institutional strengthening
10. Expertise in agriculture systems and community economics

Interested organizations are required to send their profile indicating their areas of expertise, services and experiences on or before June 22, 2007 to:

MR. RAUL A. FARFAN
Manager for Community and Local Affairs
Sagittarius Mines, Inc.
JPM Sports Complex, Bula-Lagao Road, General Santos City

Or

MS. BELLA D. LECHONSITO
Superintendent for Community Relations and Development
Sagittarius Mines, Inc.
JPM Sports Complex, Bula-Lagao Road, General Santos City

You may also email your profile at rfarfan@xstratacopper.com.pe or bella.lechonsito@smi.com.ph.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

BSNS FREE EDUC 09273309578

Quality Lifestyle.
Foreign Co. 40t capital
10 hrs. wk. min.
Poten. Income 100t mth.
In 6 mths.Serious only
Appt. 0917 7002958

RESTAURANT W/ EQUIPMENTS PRC, MAKATI P400,000 5646593 5897041

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

24 PROFESSIONALS 15-45K /mo 23-45y/o gud com skills travel Op txt name age bckgrnd 09105664488

DRAFTSMAN 2D-3D CADD 7237019 San Juan Office

CAREGIVER • 3026893

DEP ED MAKATI
Teacher 1 Item No. 42174

Dep-Ed Makati City
Vacant Position
For (8) Teacher 1
Item No.
42131,42132,42140,42141
42146,42147,42148,31765
Tchr. Elig. w/ MA Units
For (7) Teacher 2 Item No.
34366,35241,35242,35243,
35247,35248,35281

Division of Makati
District VI One Vacant Pos.
of T-1 Item No.42019

Division of Makati District VI
One Vacant Position
of T-1 Item No. 42174

HELP / WANTED

ELECTRICIAN

- Male
- Preferably with Automotive experience
- Trade School graduates also accepted

SEND BIO DATA THRU email:
hrd@starcomm.com.ph
Fax No. 416-0935

LIC MED TECH 09182982309

MEDTECH XRTECH 521-0531

Need of Sec. Acctg. Clerk w/ exp. Comp. Lit. 8221550 / 7768070

Notice of Vacancy Division of
Makati MTCHR2-30560
MTCHR1-31264
TCHR3-35011 ,35012,
34996;TCHR2-34415,34141
34140,34143,34146,34259
TCHR1-42192,42219,30257,
42238-30787

NOW HIRING

Booking Sales Reps Male & Female with or without exp Scotsdale Henderson Phil. 6576213 ; 2403977 Office Hrs

OFF CLERK F QC RESD'T 4164978

PHARMACIST full time QC below 35yrs old 09162154243

Sec w/ Computer Literacy Cashier w/ Bookeeping Family Driver 8161683

WANTED: DENTIST
Male/Female Age 25 to 30 Call
916-2923 • 901-1648

MALE

2,000 Men Workers Wanted
(20-30 years old)
Reply to: evensenj@yahoo.ca

FEMALE

ACCTG STAFF 30BLW BSA NEAR LAS PINAS 8752690

LIC. DENTIST 7522583

EXPD Kord Operator not more than 35 yo living nr the vicinity of Mandaluyong is an advantage Call 532-0148•534-6444•534-6453

PBCOM

Philippine Bank of Communications

INVITATION TO BID

All interested parties are invited to purchase, by way of sealed bids, in CASH or TERMS (minimum 20% downpayment, balance payable over a maximum period of five (5) years @ 14.5% p.a. for the first two (2) years, succeeding years based on prevailing market rate to be repriced yearly) and on "AS-IS, WHERE-IS" basis, the following real estate properties:

Location /Description	Minimum Bid Price
ANTIPOLO	
691718 (2,361 sq.m.) Residential vacant lot parcel located at Lot 21, Block 26, Sampaguita St., Valley Golf Subdivision, Bgy. Mayamot, Antipolo City	4,250,000.00
BATANGAS	
Lot 22, Blk 10 Residential vacant lot located at Lipa Royale Estate Subdivision Phase III, Brgy. Inusloban, Lipa City TCT No/s. T-151104 Lot Area: 153 sq.m.	536,000.00
Lot 23, Blk 10 Residential vacant lot located at Lipa Royale Estate Subdivision Phase III, Bgy. Inusloban, Lipa City TCT No/s. T-151105 Lot Area: 221 sq.m.	818,000.00
Lot 24, Blk 10 Residential vacant lot located at Lipa Royale Estate Subdivision Phase III, Bgy. Inusloban, Lipa City TCT No/s. T-151106 Lot Area: 178 sq.m.	659,000.00
Lot 25, Blk 10 Residential vacant lot located at Lipa Royale Estate Subdivision Phase III, Bgy. Inusloban, Lipa City TCT No/s. T-151107 Lot Area: 154 sq.m.	539,000.00
Lot 26, Blk 10 Residential vacant lot located at Lipa Royale Estate Subdivision Phase III, Bgy. Inusloban, Lipa City TCT No/s. T-151108 Lot Area: 162 sq.m.	567,000.00
Lot 27, Blk 10 Residential vacant lot located at Lipa Royale Estate Subdivision Phase III, Bgy. Inusloban, Lipa City TCT No/s. T-151109 Lot Area: 161 sq.m.	564,000.00
Lot 28, Blk 10 Residential vacant lot located at Lipa Royale Estate Subdivision Phase III, Bgy. Inusloban, Lipa City TCT No/s. T-151110 Lot Area: 166 sq.m.	581,000.00
Lot 29, Blk 10 Residential vacant lot located at Lipa Royale Estate Subdivision Phase III, Bgy. Inusloban, Lipa City TCT No/s. T-151111 Lot Area: 154 sq.m.	539,000.00
Lot 34, Blk 10 Residential vacant lot located at Lipa Royale Estate Subdivision Phase III, Bgy. Inusloban, Lipa City TCT No/s. T-151112 Lot Area: 209 sq.m.	732,000.00
Lot 36, Blk 10 Residential vacant lot located at Lipa Royale Estate Subdivision Phase III, Bgy. Inusloban, Lipa City TCT No/s. T-151114 Lot Area: 217 sq.m.	760,000.00
Lot 35, Blk 10 Residential vacant lot located at Lipa Royale Estate Subdivision Phase III, Bgy. Inusloban, Lipa City TCT No/s. T-151113 Lot Area: 323 sq.m.	1,195,000.00
TCT Nos. P-924; T-162817 to T-162821 (54,821 sq.m.); Seven (7) agricultural lot parcels with poultry houses and stockroom (4,803 sq.m.) along Katigbak Private Road, Bgy. Pangao, Lipa City, Batangas	32,250,000.00
CAVITE	
T-1057490 (2,000 sq.m.) Industrial lot w/ lofty warehouse 1,755.37 sq.m. located at No. 12 Mt. Makiling St., Mountview Industrial Complex, Brgy. Bancal, Carmona, Cavite	16,518,577.59
LAGUNA	
T-221107 to T-221110 (25,000 sqm each), T-221111 (Total: 105,635 sq.m.) Contiguous industrial/agricultural vacant lot parcels located at Sta. Cruz-Calumpang Road, Bo. Oogong, Sta. Cruz, Laguna	14,750,000.00
T-150927 (14,407 sq.m.) T-150928 (14,407 sq.m.) Two contiguous agricultural land/Riceland with five (5) units poultry houses (4,096 sq.m.) located at along Bagong Silang Road, Bgy. Sala, Cabuyao, Laguna	21,572,000.00
T-421938 (583 sq.m.) Commercial lot with single sty. Light commercial building and commercial warehouse/auto aircon shop (405.60 sq.m.) located at along the southern side of the Provincial Road, Barangay Dita, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	5,853,000.00
Residential vacant lot located at Lot 14, Blk. 8 Lago Vista Executive Village, Barangay Pansol, Calamba, Laguna TCT No/s. T-604268 Lot Area: 253 sq.m.	455,000.00
Residential vacant lot located at Lot 15, Blk. 8 Lago Vista Executive Village, Barangay Pansol, Calamba, Laguna TCT No/s. T-604269 Lot Area: 213 sq.m.	320,000.00
Residential vacant lot located at Lot 16, Blk. 8 Lago Vista Executive Village, Barangay Pansol, Calamba, Laguna TCT No/s. T-604270 Lot Area: 309 sq.m.	464,000.00
Residential vacant lot located at Lot 17, Blk. 8 Lago Vista Executive Village, Barangay Pansol, Calamba, Laguna TCT No/s. T-604271 Lot Area: 220 sq.m.	330,000.00
Residential vacant lot located at Lot 19, Blk. 8 Lago Vista Executive Village, Barangay Pansol, Calamba, Laguna TCT No/s. T-604273 Lot Area: 220 sq.m.	660,000.00
Residential vacant lot located at Lot 18, Blk. 8 Lago Vista Executive Village, Barangay Pansol, Calamba, Laguna TCT No/s. T-604272 Lot Area: 243 sq.m.	729,000.00
Residential vacant lot located at Lot 20, Blk. 8 Lago Vista Executive Village, Barangay Pansol, Calamba, Laguna TCT No/s. T-604274 Lot Area: 288 sq.m.	1,152,000.00
T-604264 (1,366 sq.m.) Residential lot with three (3) storey clubhouse/pavilion building 465.25 sq.m. located at Lot 7, Blk. 2, Lago Vista Executive Village, Barangay Pansol, Calamba, Laguna	8,805,000.00
MANILA	
267776 (1,043.20 sqm - total) Three (3) Residential lot parcels located at 2843 Lamayan Street, Sta. Ana, Manila	9,339,000.00
MAKATI	
Residential condominium unit with parking slot (#17) 68.20 sq.m. located at Unit 1101 Millenium Plaza Hotel, Makati Ave. cor Eduque St., Makati City TCT No/s. 92608 (56.70sq.m.) & 92609 (11.50sq.m.)	3,518,000.00
MONTALBAN	
468037 (286 sq.m.) & 468038 (291 sq.m.) Residential/agro-industrial lot parcels with warehouse building and open type shed 340 sq.m./120 sq.m. located at Lot 2-A and 2-B Sampaguita St., Bo. San Jose, Rodriguez (Montalban), Rizal	2,768,000.00
NOVALICHES	
Two (2) Contiguous Residential lot parcels located at Villa Verde Avenue, Villa Verde Homes, Bgy. Sta. Monica, Novaliches, Quezon City TCT Nos. RT-49477 (8,455 sqm) & N-302134 (112 sq.m) Lot Area: 8,567 sq.m	4,398,662.00
PANGASINAN	
80667 to 80682, T-52012 (4,980 sq.m.) 17 contiguous lot with maritime school,building facilities 2,633 sq.m. located at Provincial Road, Tambac District, Dagupan City, Pangasinan	28,566,000.00
PARAÑAQUE	
Vacant Residential lot parcels located at Barangay San Dionisio, Parañaque City TCT No/s. 162964 (9,\162 sq.m.) and 162965 (1,292 sq.m.) Lot Area: 10,454 sq.m.	36,589,000.00

Location /Description	Minimum Bid Price
PASAY	
CCT No. 16847 () Two (2) bedroom apartment condominium 192 sq.m. located at Unit 1101, 11th Floor, Marbella I Condominium, Roxas Blvd., Barangay San Roque, Pasay City	5,760,000.00
PASIG	
PT-42490 (194.86) & PT-42491 (12.5) () Residential apartment/ condominium unit with parking slot (P-45/lower basement) 194.86 sq.m. located at Unit 806 Horizon Condominium, Meralco Avenue, Ortigas Center, Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City	7,170,000.00
QUEZON CITY	
N-205409 Residential vacant lot located Along Washington Street, within Vista Real Classica, Bgy. Matandang Balara, Quezon City.	2,300,000.00
TAGUIG	
Investment Certificate of Ownership No. 118167 (96 sq.m.) Heritage Park Memorial Estate located at Lot No. 04E00119 The Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila	3,300,000.00
Investment Certificate of Ownership No. 118166 (60 sq.m.) Heritage Park Memorial Estate located at Lot No. 04E00118 The Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila	3,300,000.00
VALENZUELA	
V-78122 (2,000 sq.m.) Industrial lot with shed type structure of light materials located at G. Race Street, Barangay Canumay West, Valenzuela City	6,000,000.00
V-63394 (3,000 sq.m.) Industrial lot with old and dilapidated warehouse 1,716 sq.m. located at No. 2 (formerly no. 3) F. Lazaro St., Canumay West, Valenzuela City	13,388,000.00
V-74225 (2,940 sq.m.) Industrial lot with vacant industrial warehouse consisting of three (3) buildings 4,925 sq.m. located at No. 7 R. Jacinto Street, Barangay Canumay West, Valenzuela City	24,346,000.00
BACOLOD	
T-233117 (3,425 sq.m.) Residential vacant lot located at North Circumferential Road, Brgy. Villamonte, Bacolod City.	4,301,304.37
T-233120 to 233122 (18,765 sqm.) Contiguous agri vacant lot parcels located at Purok Riverside, Brgy. Mansilingan, Bacolod City	8,507,741.52
BUKIDNON	
T-24789 (535,640 sq.m.) Agricultural lot located at Sitio Tingca-an, Cabanglasan, Malaybalay, Bukidnon	2,143,000.00
CAGAYAN DE ORO	
T-123283 (350 sq.m.) Residential lot w/ single sty. res. bldg. 150.87 sq.m. located at Mt. Apo Street, Capistrano Complex Subd., Gusa, Cagayan de Oro City	2,259,000.00
T-151167 (2,000 sq.m.) Residential vacant lot located at Old National Highway, Bulua District, Cagayan de Oro City	4,600,000.00
T-123284 (400 sq.m.) Residential lot with residential building located at Mt. Apo St., Capistrano Complex Subd., Gusa, Cagayan De Oro City	1,200,000.00
T-133907 (176 sq.m.) Comm'l lot w/ 4 sty. comm'l/office bldg. 517.65 sq.m. located at Tirso Neri Street, Barangay 7, Cagayan de Oro City	6,800,000.00
CEBU	
46892 (891 sq.m.) Commercial lot with various commercial improvements (2,001 sq.m.) located at M.L. Quezon National Highway, Pusok, Lapu Lapu City	21,402,000.00
GENERAL SANTOS	
Residential lot located at Artemio E. Ramos St. (formerly Lapu Lapu St.), Dadiangas East, General Santos City TCT No/s. T-80521 Lot Area: 598 sq.m.	2,093,000.00
Three (3) Industrial lot parcels w/ cannibalized and dilapidated improvements located at Barrio of Saig, Tambler, GSC TCT No/s. T-95422(5,000), T-95423 (5,000), T-95424 (150) Lot Area: 10,150 sq.m.	8,264,114.68
T-90718 (112 sqm), T-90719 (550 sqm), T-90722 (50 sq.m), T-90723 (88 sq.m) (800 sq. m.) 4 contiguous commercial lot parcels w/ 2 sty. comm'l bldg. 1,040 sq.m located at J. Catolico, Sr. Avenue, Bgy. Lagao, General Santos City	14,592,000.00
ILOILO	
T-140928 & 140929 (2,463 sq.m.) Interior residential vacant lot located at Guzman St., Mandurriao, Iloilo City	2,158,880.00
T-140930 (985 sq.m.) Interior res. Vacant lot at Guzman St., Mandurriao, Iloilo City	849,120.00
KORONADAL	
Various T-108670 (8,170 sq.m.) & T-108672 (1,500 sq.m.) (9,670 sq.m.) Two contiguous residential lots with residential and warehouse buildings (569.80 sq.m.) located at National Highway, Bgy. Lapuz, Norala South Cotabato	5,019,554.00
T-44473 (1,200 sq.m.) Residential lot with single sty. Comm'l. bldg., (108 sq.m.) located at National Highway, Kaliwag 1 Isulan, Sultan Kudarat	3,233,000.00

Complete descriptions/specifications of the above-properties, rules and regulations of the bidding procedures and the prescribed forms are available from the following:

MR. BOY MORALES / MS. JOAN MANUEL / MS. LAIDEE SANTOS
Tel Nos. 830-7203 / 830-7230 / 818-2632

Bidding will be held on June 29, 2007 at 10:00 a.m., 2nd Floor, PBCOM Tower, 6795 Ayala Avenue corner V.A. Rufino Street, Makati City. Bidder's deposit equivalent to 10% of the minimum bid amount in the form of Cash or Manager's/Cashier's Check together with the duly accomplished bid form must be enclosed in the sealed bid. All bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for submission of bids. The winning bid will be subject to approval by the appropriate approving authority.

(PDI–June 17, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

JACKSON "JACK" DY CO

Notice is hereby given to the public that **MR. JACKSON DY CO** whose picture appears above, has been terminated and ceased to be connected with **Goldmove Motors Corporation** effective June 4, 2007.

Any transaction entered into by **MR. CO** for and in behalf of **Goldmove Motors Corporation** will not be honored effective the above mentioned date.

THE MANAGEMENT

(PDI – June 17, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

JEFFREY "JEFF" MANAÑGU ALONZO

Notice is hereby given to the public that **MR. JEFFREY M. ALONZO** whose picture appears above, has been terminated and ceased to be connected with **Goldmove Motors Corporation** effective June 2, 2007.

Any transaction entered into by **MR. ALONZO** for and in behalf of **Goldmove Motors Corporation** will not be honored effective the above mentioned date.

THE MANAGEMENT

(PDI – June 17, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

LINO "EPOT" ZIPAGAN MALENAB

Notice is hereby given to the public that **MR. LINO Z. MALENAB** whose picture appears above, has been terminated and ceased to be connected with **Goldmove Motors Corporation** effective **June 2, 2007.**

Any transaction entered into by **MR. MALENAB** for and in behalf of **Goldmove Motors Corporation** will not be honored effective the above mentioned date.

THE MANAGEMENT

(PDI – June 17, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

OSCARLITO " BATANG'" PANGANIBAN MAULEON

Notice is hereby given to the public that **MR. OSCARLITO P. MAULEON** whose picture appears above, has been terminated and ceased to be connected with **BSB JUNROSE AUTOPARTS CORPORATION**, an affiliate of **BSB Group Inc.** effective May 28, 2007.

Any transaction entered into by **Mr. Mauleon** for and in behalf of **BSB Junrose Autoparts Corporation** will not be honored effective the above mentioned date.

THE MANAGEMENT

(PDI – June 17, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

CATARINO "INO" ZIPAGAN MALENAB

Notice is hereby given to the public that **MR. CATARINO Z. MALENAB**, whose picture appears above, has been terminated and ceased to be connected with **BSB JUNROSE AUTOPARTS CORPORATION,** an affiliate of **BSB Group Inc.** effective June 4, 2007.

Any transaction entered into by **Mr. Malenab** for and in behalf of **BSB JUNROSE AUTOPARTS CORPORATION** will not be honored effective the above mentioned date.

THE MANAGEMENT

(PDI – June 17, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

CHRISTIAN GUSTILO VILLARUZ

Notice is hereby given to the public that **MR. CHRISTIAN G. VILLARUZ** whose picture appears above, has been terminated and ceased to be connected with **BSB JUNROSE AUTOPARTS CORPORATION**, an affiliate of **BSB Group Incorporated** effective **May 30, 2007.**

Any transaction entered into by **Mr. Villaruz** for and in behalf of **BSB JUNROSE AUTOPARTS CORPORATION** will not be honored effective the above mentioned date.

THE MANAGEMENT

(PDI – June 17, 2007)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
CITY OF ILOILO
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE
NEW 8-STOREY ILOILO CITY HALL BUILDING

The Scope of the Construction Management Consultancy work includes among others quantity surveying services, preparation of detailed estimates, value engineering, and full construction management for the proposed 8-storey Iloilo City Hall Building.

1. The City Government of Iloilo, through its Supplemental Budget No. 6, intends to apply the sum of P7,000,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Construction Management Consultancy for the New 8-storey Iloilo City Hall Building at Plaza Libertad, Iloilo City. Bids in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.
2. The City Government of Iloilo, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), now calls for the submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and short listing for the construction management consultancy services. Interested consultants must submit their LOI's and accomplished Eligibility Documents on or before July 2, 2007 at 10:00 A.M. at the BAC Secretariat, General Services Office, 4th Level Carpark Area, Robinsons Place Iloilo, Mabini Street, Iloilo City. Eligibility documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat for a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00. The date of the opening of Eligibility Documents shall be on July 3, 2007 at 10:00 A.M. at the City Legal Office Conference Room, Iloilo City Hall, 3rd Level Robinsons Place Iloilo, Mabini Street, Iloilo City. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. Only those that are short-listed will be entitled to submit bids.
3. The BAC shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have submitted LOI's and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) as amended. The short list of prospective bidders shall consist of up to five (5) consultants with a total average rating of at least 80% for each consultant. The criteria and rating system for the short listing are as follows: Applicable Experience (50%), Qualification of Personnel (30%) and Job Capacity (20%). The prospective consultant must be an active member of a consultancy association accredited by COFILCO.
4. LOI's must be delivered by personal service or through mail to and received at the address stated below on or before July 2, 2007 at 10:00 P.M. A pre-bid conference for shortlisted consultants will be held on July 17, 2007 at 10:00 in the morning at the City Legal Office Conference Room, Iloilo City Hall, 3rd Floor Robinsons Place Iloilo, Mabini Street, Iloilo City. Deadline for submission of bids will be on July 31, 2007 at 10:00 in the morning at the BAC Secretariat, General Services Office, 4th Level Carpark Area, Robinsons Place Iloilo, Mabini Street, Iloilo City.
5. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only bids from short-listed consultants will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Eligibility Documents. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, the contract will only be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during the post-qualification.

   The City Government of Iloilo shall evaluate bids using the Quality Based Evaluation (QBE) procedure. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Instruction to Bidders.
6. Interested consultants may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
7. The Construction Management Consultancy Contract must be completed within the following schedule from consultant's receipt of the Notice to Proceed, to wit (a) Pre-construction phase – 13 months; (b) Construction phase – 17 months; (c) Post-Construction Phase – 2 months
8. The City Government of Iloilo City reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) ATTY. EDGARDO J. GIL
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

BAC Secretariat
General Services Office
4th Level Carpark Area, Robinsons Place Iloilo, Mabini Street, Iloilo City
Tel. No. and Fax No. (033) 3368333

(PDI – June 17, 2007)

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Manila

Head Office:
P.O. Box 3589 Manila
FAX No. 522-14-34
Tel. Nos. 523-84-61 to 70
E-mail:oic@i-manila.com.ph

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that **CATHAY INSURANCE COMPANY, INC.** has voluntarily ceased from issuing new and renewal policies effective September 30, 2006. In relation thereto, the Insurance Commission appointed **Mr. Alex R. Gonzales** as Conservator effective December 18, 2006.

Parties having claim against the company are hereby notified to file their claims under oath with the Conservator not later than June 30, 2007, together with all supporting documents and/or relevant proofs detailing the character, basis and amount of each and every claim, directly with the appointed Conservator either personally or by mail at the company's business address at 10th Floor, Tytana Plaza Bldg., Plaza Lorenzo Ruiz, Binondo, Manila for consideration in its eventual liquidation pursuant to pertinent provisions of the Insurance Code, as amended. CLAIMS FILED AFTER JUNE 30, 2007 SHALL ONLY BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REMAINING ASSETS IF ANY, AFTER SETTLEMENT OF ALL CLAIMS SUBMITTED WITHIN THE DEADLINE.

(Sgd.) **EVANGELINE CRISOSTOMO-ESCOBILLO**
Insurance Commissioner

(PDI--June 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2007)

ACCOUNTING CLERK/ENCODER

- Graduate of any 4-year course
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OBITUARIES

"Our true home is in Heaven and Jesus Christ whose return we long for will come to save us."

Php 3:20

In Loving Memory of our beloved Mother

CEDARIA CABIGON DOMINGO

"Dading"

who peacefully joined our Lord
on June 14, 2007 at the age of 82.

Her beloved husband **Enrique Sr.** (†); children **Evelyn** (†) & **Billy**, **Catherine**, **Marilyn** & **Dave**, **Enrique Jr.** & **Ely**, **Jesus** & **Judy**, **Nestor** & **Celine**, **Roselyn** & **Francis**, **Apolinard** & **Helen**, **Michael** & **Carmen**, grandchildren and great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains will lie in state at Chapel C, La Funeraria Paz, Inc., Araneta Avenue, Quezon City starting June 22, 2007.

Interment will be announced later.

In Loving Memory
of our Dearly Beloved

Sr. FELISIDORA SANCHEZ CAMACHO, FMM

of Tagbilaran City, Bohol and Tripoli, Libya

Born: April 1, 1937
Died: June 15, 2007

who peacefully joined our Creator
and now rests in His Goodness and Grace.

We, her brothers, sister and in-laws **Rev. Fr. Florante S. Camacho, SVD; Ma. Evangelina & Virgilio (✞) Durban, Jr., P. Emmanuel & Helen Camacho**; her nieces and nephews; her sisters in the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (FMM); relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul. Her remains lie in state at St. Joseph's Convent Chapel, Congressional Road, General Mariano Alvarez, Cavite.

Interment will take place on Tuesday, 19 June 2007, at the FMM Cemetery in Tagaytay City immediately following the Mass of the Resurrection at 10:00 A.M. thereat.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6

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811-4370
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528-0213; 527-3342
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PAZ ALDE AUSTRIA

FORMER CHIEF, RECORDS DIVISION, PHIL. SENATE

Joined her Creator on June 15, 2007
on the Feast of the Sacred Heart at the age of 84.

His bereaved husband Fernando (Nanding); children Agnes, Cecill, Vangie, Jun and Beth; children-in-law Sergio, Chito and Ramon; grandchildren Emily-Anne, JayJay, Zara, Justin, Ida and Bea, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart, Kamagong Street, Makati.

Interment will be on June 19, 2007 at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the St. Joseph the Worker Parish Church in Palanan, Makati.

ERRATUM

In the obituary of **TERESITA REVILLA SANTOS** published on **June 16, 2007**, the name **Manolet** was inadvertently printed as Manoler and the phrase "...19aunt Pilar Goyena" should have read "...aunt Pilar Goyena, relatives and friends request..."

Our apologies.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

Notify family and friends of a loved one who had just passed away.

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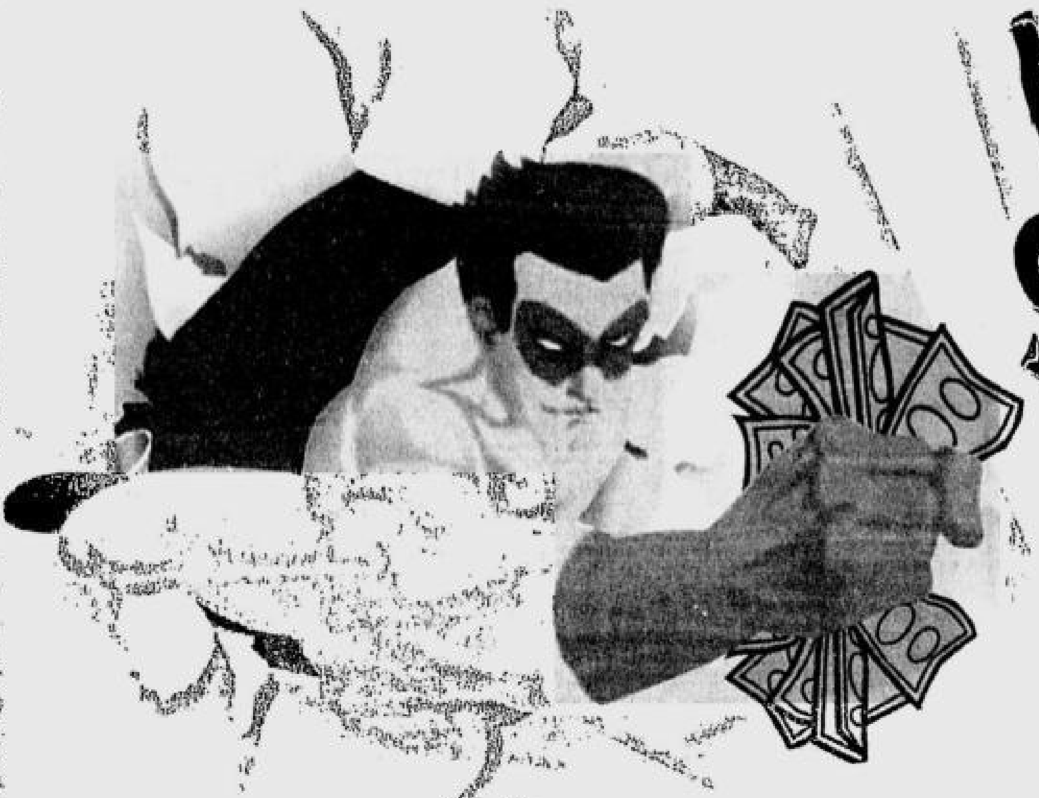

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Male / Female. Graduate of Mass Communications or any four year business course. Very good in oral and written communication skills. Customer-oriented and proficient in computer applications.

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Male / Female. Graduate of any four year business course. With at least 1 year related work experience. Good communication skills, flexible and hardworking. Proficient in computer applications.

ACCOUNTING STAFF

Male / Female. Preferably a graduate of Accountancy. With at least 1 year related work experience. Good communication skills, flexible and hardworking. Proficient in computer applications.

IT PROFESSIONAL

Male / Female. Graduate of BS Computer Science or other computer related course. Preferably with Progress and SQL experience.

ADMINISTRATION STAFF

Male / Female. Graduate of any four year business course. Must be computer literate and possess good communication skills. Related work experience is a plus.

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Male / Female. Graduate of Mechanical Engineering or equivalent. Prior working experience in a car dealership will be an advantage. Good communication skills. Customer and service-oriented.

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Male. Preferably a graduate of at least a 2-year Automotive Technology / Engineering course. Knowledgeable in performing periodic and preventive auto maintenance works. Holder of a valid professional driver's license. Must be physically fit.

COLLECTOR/MESSENGER

Male. Attained at least 2nd year college or graduate of vocational course. Can drive a motorcycle / 4 wheel vehicle. Holder of a valid professional driver's license. Must be physically fit.

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Male. Preferably a technical or vocational graduate. With at least 1 year related work experience. Must be physically fit.

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Project Officer for Institutional Development

The Role

In line with Oxfam Great Britain's humanitarian programme, to ensure that communities, government, scientific community and civil society share good practices and knowledge, especially focusing on Community Based Disaster Risk Management and Early Warning systems to influence and improve interventions and decision making in disaster risk management institutions. Ensure that key identified local government units staff have the confidence to engage with and access information on recognized good practice. Increase knowledge and understanding of the need to replicate institutional disaster management units.

Specific Responsibilities:

1) Manage and coordinate the implementation of the institutional related activities in collaboration with partners and stakeholders
2) To serve as primary liaison with local authorities and counterparts and negotiate for detailed framework for cooperation on project activities concerning institutional development
3) To manage case study design, implementation, as well as capacity building, seminars and for other coordination activities at the national and sub-national levels
4) Establishment of network and documentation of history of Albay public safety unit
5) Completion of planning with Project Manager
6) Ensure that at least 3 LGUs initiate steps to institutionalize Disaster Risk Management
7) Ensure NDCC support and dissiminate information regarding institutionalization of DRM office in LGUs, citing gender related concerns
8) Ensure NDCC supports standard guidelines for institutional Disaster coordinating councils which include gender issues and stakeholder involvement citing role of indigenous and scientific grounds

Emergency Response

1) Provide support to organizational preparedness process (emergency response)
2) The post holder's responsibilities in emergency response shall be defined by the emergency and preparedness plans for both medium sized emergencies and in the OI contingency plan

Person Specification

The following are essential:

- At least three (3) years work experience with local humanitarian organization and a knowledge and understanding of the Philippine Disaster risk management environment, its dynamics and operations
- Knowledge of the disaster situations in the Philippines including social, economic and political issues. Knowledge and understanding of disaster management including emergency assessment, planning and implementation and commitment to community based approaches.
- Understanding of institutionalized PDCC's and LGU relationship with DRM.
- Understanding of gender issues in development and commitment to promoting gender equality
- Knowledge and understanding of the mechanics and problems of programme implementation
- Experience of strategic and programme planning; skills and experience of monitoring, evaluation and appraisal
- Ability to work on his/her own initiative to build on and develop the job, combined with the ability to work effectively as part of a team
- Fluency in written and spoken English and either Filipino or Cebuano
- Good oral and written communication skills and an ability to relate to people from all backgrounds
- Budgeting and numeric skills
- Willingness to travel frequently, sometimes in remote areas for extended periods, to visit projects and partners

In addition, the following are highly desirable:

- A broad understanding of development issues at the national and international level
- Experience of community based disaster response and management
- Experience of work on gender issues, including planning, training, research and organizing is highly desirable; specific gender related work in Disaster Management is an advantage
- Experience in popular education and PRA (participatory rural appraisal) methods and ability to promote participatory processes.

This post is for a fixed term of six (6) months with possibility of extension. Interested applicants are encouraged to submit application letter and CV to:

The Human Resources Manager
OXFAM GREAT BRITAIN
95-A Malumanay Street
Teacher's Village, Diliman, Quezon City 1101
FAX: 927-0499 email: etadeo@oxfam.org.uk

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- At least 1 year of experience in the same capacity.

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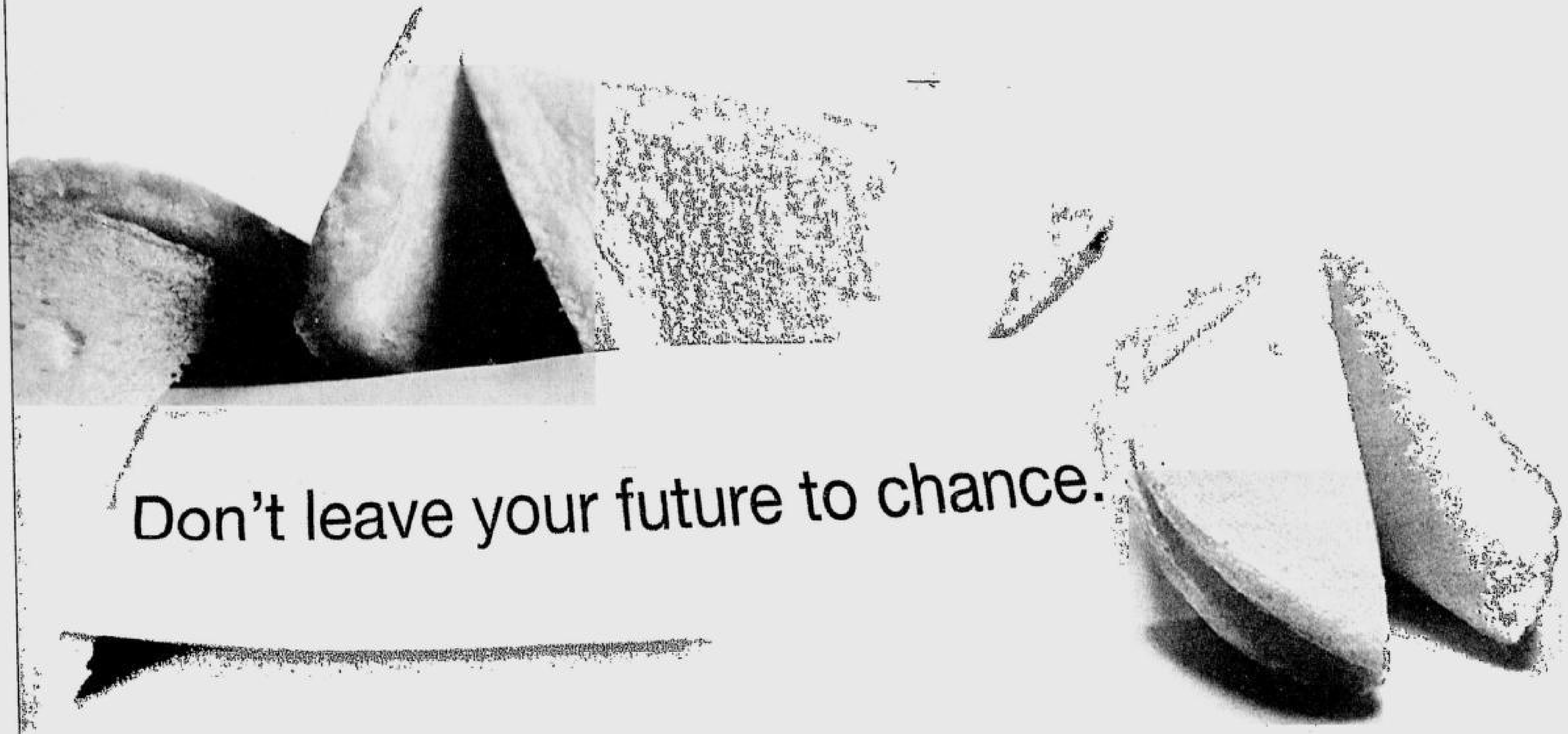

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- Manages, monitors, strengthens the Knowledge for Development Center (KDC) Program which includes the World Bank's KDC and the other KDCs/Global Distance Learning Center, managed in partnership with key state and private universities all over the country. Builds partnerships, trains, mentors, and strengthens the KDC assistants around the country.
- Through the KDC program and in collaboration with other WB team members, develops and implements a knowledge sharing and outreach strategy within the country, including materials, events, and activities to encourage dialogue and networking with other local and national players. Develops and maintains training tools and programs, including manuals, and quick reference guides for the KDC program.
- Liaises and manages relationships with certain key external and/or internal clients to identify opportunities for strategic partnerships to strengthen the KDC Program. Responds to routine and non-routine inquiries about the Bank from various constituencies, such as the government, the media, civil society, labor groups, development partners, and the private sector.
- Acquires, controls, and distributes the physical collection of all released documents, publications, and other reports relevant to Philippines development issues. Develops and maintains extensive knowledge of information products and services within and outside the Bank. Works in partnership with helpdesks, advisory service units and other World Bank departments to ensure accurate and timely responses to clients.
- Provides input to the Country website and manages the KDC portion of this website. Provides content for the intranet and internet pages of the InfoShop and Disclosure sites in support of the implementation of the disclosure policy.
- Assists in systematic monitoring, analysis and reporting on Disclosure Policy implementation for various document types. Develops and implements reporting mechanism to ensure compliance and complete submissions of various types of documents per the Disclosure Policy.
- Manages and maintains a database of all KDCs, including information on their management, physical facilities, equipment, partnerships etc. Prepares regular monitoring reports, gives analysis and reports to the other members of the team.
- Liaises with the relevant units in the country office, East Asia and Pacific Region, and the World Bank's Headquarters Office.

Selection criteria:

- BA/BS graduate in Information or Library Sciences, Communications, International or Public Affairs, Information or Library Sciences, Journalism, or other development field. At least 5 to 7 years or more relevant work experience.
- Knowledge of social, political and other current development issues in the region and country and familiarity with the World Bank, its policies and operations.
- Strong client focus with flexible and creative approach to problem solving. Sound judgment and ability to evaluate clients information needs, suggest innovative approaches and follow up on detailed implementation.
- Solid knowledge and understanding of information management and library processes, procedures and practices, including the relevant databases and technology. Experience in handling document/book distribution.
- Experience in design and delivery of dissemination strategies. Familiarity with communication approaches, tools, and methodologies for planning, executing, and monitoring communication strategies – e.g., campaign management, social marketing, opinion research, outreach tactics, message targeting, etc.
- Excellent oral and written communications capabilities; strong organizational, research/analytical and presentation skills. Spoken and written fluency required in one major language of the region/country and in English.
- Strong computer skills; proven ability to use standard and customized Bank technology packages, e.g., Internet, Word, Lotus Notes, PowerPoint, Excel, etc. Basic knowledge of web editing.
- High degree of self motivation & ability to work capably under stress and to juggle multiple tasks within tight deadlines.
- Proven conceptual, analytical skills, ability to identify issues, formulate options and make recommendations.
- Strong planning, organization and time management skills to function in a team and contribute towards a common goal.

Please send your application letter, with a comprehensive resume with details of your work experience, academic records, recent photo, references (at least three names with full contact details) not later than June 29, 2007

Only applicants who will be short-listed will be called upon for interview. Send the above to: The Human Resource Officer, BOX 900, C/O PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, 5TH FLR., BLDG-B, SM MEGAMALL, EDSA, MANDALUYONG CITY.

CIAC

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President

CLARK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CORPORATION

Diosdado Macapagal International Airport

WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

AIRPORT OPERATIONS MANAGER

The Clark International Airport Corporation, operator of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA), is in need of a dynamic and technically equipped Airport Operations Manager who can lead the entire airport operations in accordance with International best practices.

POSITION SUMMARY:

Directly manages (plans, operates, leads and controls) operations at the airport which include terminal operations and ground and airside operational process interaction in accordance with international and local regulations and best practices.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:

1. At least a college graduate major in aviation management; business administration, engineering or a related field;
2. Must have direct or related managerial experience of at least three (3) years involving the international and local rules, regulations and ordinances governing the operation of an airport; operational activities of an airport complex; and principles of security and emergency services planning;
3. Must be able to demonstrate competence, dedication and passion in the creation, expansion, innovation and utilization of cutting edge technology involved in airport operations as an integral component of an aviation and logistics complex within the Clark Freeport;
4. A team-player and results-oriented;
5. Can deliver quality work even under pressure; and
6. Must have excellent problem-solving and decision-making capability as well as very good oral and written communication skills.

You may apply personally and bring your resumé and credentials at
Human Resources Department, Corporate Offices Building,
Clark International Airport Corporation, Clark Field, Pampanga
or
You may send your resumé and other credentials at
hrd@clarkairport.com
For inquiries, call (045) 599-2888. Look for Ms. Joyce or Ms. Josa

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Knowledgeable in Microsoft Exchange Server 2007, Knowledgeable in web administration
At least 3 years in technical support, Certification(s) is a plus

JUNIOR ACCOUNTANT

Accounting Graduate with at least 2 years work experience in all accounting functions
Computer literate (Excel, Word and others), Can work with minimal supervision

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or personally submit to:
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- Has passion for fashion; strong organizational skills

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- Proficient in fashion trend forecasting and product line planning and assortment

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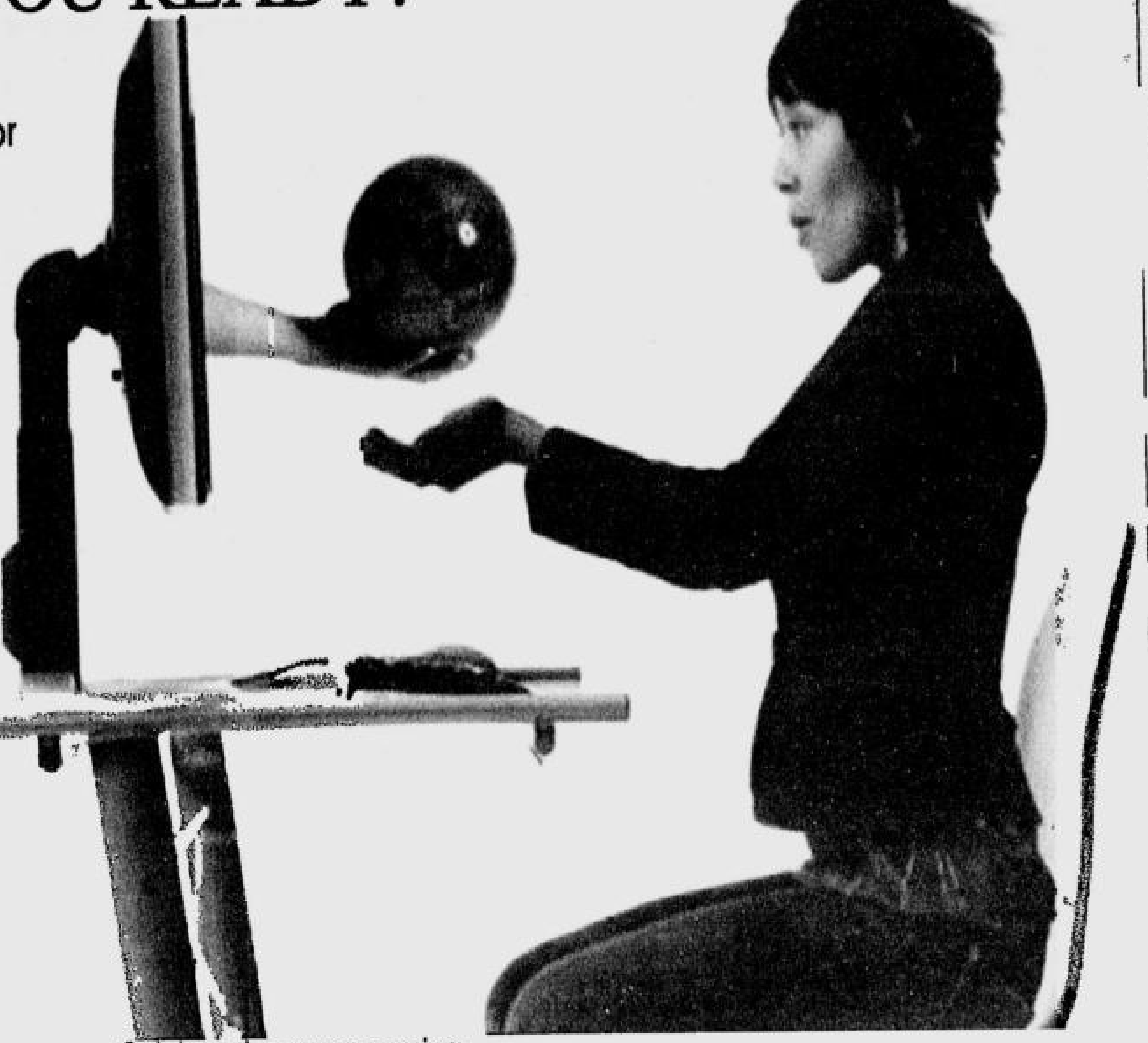

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Unit 16 Hillside Plaza, Sumulong Highway, Mayamot, Antipolo City
or you may send the above thru email address: **falconcrowne@yahoo.com**

E-mail: workingpeople@inquirer.com.ph.

Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

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Creative clutter control at work

By Karen Anne C. Liquete
Contributor

LET'S FACE IT. IF YOU'RE THE creative type who can't see beyond today's haphazard paper file to get to tomorrow's report, you're in serious clutter denial. If your officemates have started complaining about the recent infestation of various staple wires and paper clips from your cubicle to theirs and you don't know how the geegaws got there, it's time for serious clutter therapy.

Working People asks Lee Silber, author of "Organizing from the Right Side of the Brain: A Creative Approach to Getting Organized," how to clean your clutter with your brain style in mind.

Most right-brained people have a hard time organizing their environment. Why is this so?

Being in your "right" mind means you have several natural tendencies that make organizing (in the classic sense) challenging. For example, being visually oriented means that the fastest way to forget/lose something is to put it away. Thus, everything is out where we can see it. It's the old battle between piling and filing paper. We are divergent thinkers and can do several things at once. That means having easy access to something (it's within reach) makes sense.

It's now easier to flit from project to project and task to task. We like to be busy and are always in a hurry and running late, that's why organizing for us needs to be quick and easy. Things have to be easier to put away that we leave them out—or everything will be left where we drop it. There are quite a few more reasons why organizing isn't easy, but you'll just have to read the book to find them out.

Creative people in the office have messy mountains of paper, paper clips and various other geegaws which pile up everyday on top of their tables. Though it's an architectural wonder to behold, I fear that the Leaning Tower of Paper may be tomorrow's avalanche.

HEEEELLP!
StephB.

What to do?

Clear plastic containers are perfect. You can group papers in them by a broad category and even color code the containers. The beauty is you can see what's inside, but because there is a lid, it seems more organized to everyone else. You can also pile with a purpose—put a tent on top of a pile (a paper folded in half that stands on its own) and title each pile. You can tape two pieces of paper together and wrap it around related papers in a pile and create a band that looks like a book binding. Now you can write what that part of the pile includes in marker on the side.

Also, does "mess" really contribute to office creativity? (The creatives say so)

Yes. There is a connection between creativity and having SOME clutter.

What's the most important tip or technique that a right-brained person needs to keep in mind in order to be able to organize his or her space and time?

Take note of your natural tendencies and use them to decide where to store something. People don't change ... much. Why try? Simply become a better version of yourself by working with instead of fighting against your personal preference.

If a left-brainer and a right-brainer share the same space, what's the most fair way of dealing with both styles—especially when considering the use of office space?

The left-brainer will never "get" the right-brainers need to have so much stuff and leave it all out. The right-brainer also has a hard time understanding why having a neat and clean environment is so important to a left-brainer. What it comes down to is a right-brainer likes to go with the flow and organizing is WAY down on their list of priorities.

They also don't see a mess, they see organized chaos and will often say, "I know it looks like a mess, but I know where everything is." Left-brainers are all about control and closure. They like a controlled environment and like to finish what they start and put things away when they are done.

Things that are out or out of place truly bother them. Organizing is everything and neatness counts. As you can see, diametrically opposed positions. I say, your space is your space and keep it the way that works for you. Shared spaces require some compromise.

Claw your way back to the workplace after retrenchment

By Aya V. Jallorina
Contributor

WHEN ONE DOOR CLOSES, ANOther one opens. Trite, but true.

When you lose your job, it is not the end of everything because you are bound to get employed again, although this may take some time depending on your skills, connections, luck.

Being retrenched (or laid off) is not uncommon in today's leaner and meaner workplace. Despite an appreciating peso and pronouncements by the government of a better economy, more and more employees are wary of layoffs. In fact, the news on merger between banks (PNB and Allied for example) which has resurrected last week had sent alarm signals to some 3,000 PNB employees who feared of losing their jobs by the end of the year or once the merger takes place. Merger, they perceived, means job redundancy, and retrenchment could be a logical move by the bank's management.

Go home

Forewarned and forearmed, many workers anticipating layoffs can sink or swim, go afloat or down the drain. But career options abound, and the wary employee can consider the following moves:

Yes, go home to work. Do any of your career skills lend themselves to a home-based business? Join the thousands of former employees who have opted to run their full-time or part-time businesses from their dens, basements or even from their own kitchens.

Starting a home business is easy in today's fast-paced technology. In fact, according to studies, a new home-based business starts every eleven seconds.

One reason for this upsurge is that the technology to operate from home but stay in touch with the world is more available and affordable than ever before. For P100,000 or less, you can have a phone, a fax, a computer, a copier, a scanner and start a computer/Internet shop. For only P16,000 you can become an e-load retailer and sell 60 different kinds of prepaid cards, gaining P30,000 a month. The perks are clear: a home business has very low overhead, is convenient and most importantly, you are within reach when family needs arise.

Going home may also mean going back to your roots. Relocating back to your hometown, closer to your relatives, with a ready business to open could ease your financial as well as lifestyle stress.

Go volunteer

Evelyn was a technical writer but was retrenched four months ago. The cessation of her regular employment was painful because she was the family breadwinner. But known as a tough woman with a high dose of resiliency, she was able to reestablish her career in less than a month. She put up her home office in her guest bedroom. She took out a personal loan from a friend who trusted her enough to lend her P50,000 capital. The loan was used by Evelyn to buy computer equipment. She offered technical editing, newsletter writing and editing, and some computer graphics to a wide variety of clients.

Because she has a wide network of friends as well as organizations, she now has a client base and a support group of desktop publishers who subcontracted work to her. Plus, she had expanded her writing horizons, having had the time now to contribute for a major daily. "Being my own boss gives me total job security. Now I'll never fear being retrenched again," she beams.

There's an obvious benefit in helping to improve the quality of life for others. When you help others through volunteer work, you feel powerful and in charge. People will appreciate your help, and this will be a boost if you've been feeling undervalued by your full-time employer. Volunteerism makes you feel like a hero. The payoffs: having the opportunity to rub shoulders with active, positive people—pillars of the community and business leaders who are potential clients or simply part of your growing network and circle of friends. And you learn new skills. There are thousands of NGOs in the country you can volunteer to, check out the web.

Go teach

Teaching, a very traditional profession, never runs out of season. Moreso, it is therapeutic and makes you feel young, according to my friend Winie Ursua, a court employee for 10 years who resigned and now teaches at the University of Rizal System (URS) in Binangonan.

There are thousands of schools which seem to be always in need of additional teaching force: college and graduate schools, technical schools, preschools. There are even noncredit adult education programs and employee training programs in need of mentors. The possible settings are almost endless in our education-driven society.

Job loss should not be such a big deal when you know how to get up and get going. Who knows, your next career move may even prove to be more satisfying than what you used to have.

(For comments, send e-mail to legalese_aya@yahoo.com)

'I've had eight jobs in five years, what's wrong with me?'

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR
Josie O. Santamaria

I AM WHAT OTHERS MAY CALL "a rolling stone that gathers no moss." I have worked in eight different companies in the five years of my employment history. I am now 28 years old, female, a BSBA Major in Management degree holder, and still single. I am not antisocial; in fact, I have friends and I enjoy being with them.

I do not want to tell job interviewers about my frequent job shifts; neither do I include all the companies I had worked for in my resumé when I apply for a job. My probationary employment ends either because I don't like the job (such as a job in sales which I didn't like at all) or I am politely told by the HR person that I don't fit the job requirements. I am too hurt to ask questions about my being unfit. What is wrong with me? Please help me.

Ms Always On Probation

The fact that you are seeking help shows that you see something is not right about you. You are right about frequent job changes reflecting negatively on you. You are right also about seeking help for you may not see things about yourself that need changing.

You write that your employment ends when you don't see yourself fitting the job or you are evaluated as not being fit for the job. What is the reason for this? Is it a question of competence, i.e., knowledge and skills required by the job which you don't have or you lack the interest to acquire these skills? Is it due to lack of interest, i.e., the job tasks do not jibe with your interest and personality? Is it your negative attitudes towards your job or towards the people you work with? Is it due to work behaviors you have, such as tardiness, absences, failure to meet standards for tasks completion, etc.

It is important for you to find out the reasons for the termination of probationary employment so that you can do something about them. Getting verbal negative feedback can hurt you temporarily but later you will be thankful that you have a basis for developing a plan to correct your weaknesses. Nonverbal behaviors of withdrawal, avoidance and aggression are also feedback but you can perceive them differently.

If you are presently employed, I suggest you set as your personal/work goal that you will be able to remain in that job for at least two years, whether you like the job or not. Having a goal will keep you focused and will motivate you to do your best. If you like your current job, well and good.

If not, learn to like it. How? See the benefits you get from your job such as: being able to acquire knowledge and skills; it enables you to have good use of your time; you are able to earn money; you have the prestige of working in a good company; you are like your friends who are also working; you are able to meet new people; you are able to make new friends, etc.

Making a list of the benefits you derive from your job will boost your self-esteem and motivate you to work hard to keep it.

Then you may want to follow the following suggestions:

1. Work hard to perform all the job tasks required by your position. Ask your boss to prioritize these tasks so you know where to focus your time, attention and energy on.
2. Frequently seek feedback from your boss on how he or she evaluates your work on a per piece and/or per day basis. Tell him or her that you want to meet his or her standards. After all, he or she is your number 1 customer.
3. Ask for coaching from your boss on your areas of difficulty. And ask for inputs on how you could improve the performance of your tasks.
4. Be punctual in reporting for work in the morning and in the afternoon. You also have to be punctual in submitting requirements such as data, reports, etc.
5. Be a team player. Use your knowledge and share your time to help your fellow team members. Ask their help too, when you have concerns. Instead of enjoying the company of your friends, develop positive working relationships with your fellow team members. Take your meals with them. Go out with them to have fun but keep expenses within your budget.
6. Avoid time wasters. Using your cell phone such as texting your friends during office hours is a big no-no. Don't use the landlines, either, for personal calls. Keep your cell phone away from your table to resist the urge to use it. Or put it on silent mode but away from you. Avoid also extending breaks and lunch time.
7. Develop and practice the following global values: having sense of urgency, being multi-tasked, being customer-driven, doing things right the first time, reducing the costs in doing your tasks, etc.
8. Read and study the mission, vision and values of your company. Know the history of your company. Know the people who comprise the top and senior management. You are sure to meet them. Greet them with a smile when you meet them.
9. Study and patronize your company's products, if they are consumer products, food or health products sold over the counter.

There are other things you need to do and things you need to avoid. I suggest further that you get a productive, efficient, well-liked and pleasant co-employee as your role model and emulate the positive attitudes and work behaviors of this person. God bless you.

(The author is a management consultant, coach and counselor, and president of Career Systems Inc., a management, organization and human resource development company. E-mail the author at josantamaria@careersystems.com.ph.)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

With a peaceful heart

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

WORKING WITH A PEACEFUL HEART MAY NOT BE VERY EVIDENTLY important for employers, managers and even the workers themselves for accomplishing the assigned jobs. One would need only cognitive abilities and technical skills and competence appropriate for the tasks at hand; other qualifications such as those related to the socio-moral aspects of man, like concern for other people, care for environment, truthfulness and honesty, uprightness and impeccability and others—might be considered irrelevant to the worker's proficiency and productivity in work. But, the workplace would be a witness to so many stressful encounters between workers and employers or even among workers themselves, to several painful situations some workers go through, or to very costly work-related accidents damaging the workers' life or limb or even machinery and equipment—all due to some troubles within the heart (psyche/soul) of the worker.

It is therefore of prime importance for everyone in the workplace to check on the inner state of one's being, to see what is wrong in the very core of one's heart—whether there is true peace in it. As it is a standard practice for operators or technicians to inspect before, during and after the tool, machine or all the system involve in the work, so is the examination of one's heart/conscience a necessary act in the performance of one's job.

Making a habit of a truthful search for self-knowledge and the acceptance of one's failings and sins and humbly asking God's forgiveness and healing for them, will ensure the formation of a totally qualified and valuable worker—one who would not only be technically competent but also humanly, morally and spiritually whole. *(E-mail the author at mfvg@skyinet.net)*

Gospel: Luke 7: 36-50

He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven..." "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

The heart of peace

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

NO COMPANY MANAGEMENT EXISTS THAT DOES NOT LONG FOR peace in the workplace. Peace is a condition for progress and productivity but it must be of the genuine variety. Unfortunately, not all company owners realize that all they want is artificial peace for their setup. For instance, they fear that workers' awareness of their rights as workers would only result in restlessness among them.

We have this magazine for young workers, Blue Collar, which many management people say they like very much. They would clip articles that teach workers the right work attitudes and values and then post copies of them all over their workplaces, but they would not subscribe for the workers because Blue Collar has a section on Workers' Rights. Management wants the workers to behave but they fear that knowing about their rights would only result in their restlessness. How then can there be genuine peace when things are lopsided?

The peace that Jesus wants for us is that which is born of a clean heart. He has made it easy for us to keep our heart clean—by asking us to follow Him and to trust in His promise. No one can fault us if all our actions are in obedience to His teachings. Trusting Him assures us of right moves at work; we do not try to put one over others, whether we belong to management or to labor. Cleanness of heart gives us this peace that progress and productivity are built upon. In turn, progress and productivity results in a climate of peace in the workplace. Peace in the heart is the heart of peace. *(E-mail the author at teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)*

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not more than 45 yrs

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Photocopies of Diploma; Certificate of Employment; Certificate of Trainings / Seminar; Scanned 2x2 pics.

Siemens IT Solutions and Services

30 positions available for SAP professionals at all levels
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Siemens IT Solutions and Services operates in over 40 countries worldwide and has a workforce of 43,000 employees, while Siemens overall operates in 190 countries, has a combined workforce of 450,000 employees sharing knowledge and expertise. Siemens currently have 1,900 employees in Thailand taking part in our global network of knowledge and innovation. The activities are focused on developing the country's communication networks, transportation systems, energy infrastructure, industrial, building and automation systems, electronic business solutions and services, lighting and medical engineering. As a global player, we are strongly committed to being a leader in innovation, serving our customers' and employees' needs as well as strengthening our business for continued success.

The Asia Australia business unit of Siemens IT Solutions and Services (SIS) operates a regional SAP Application Management Support Center (AMSC) located in Bangkok, Thailand, offering SAP consulting, support and implementation services to our customers in Thailand and the region. SIS is now searching for highly competent, active and experienced professionals to join this growing team in the following function:

SAP Consultants

Modules: FI/ CO/ MM/ PM/ PP/ SD/ PS-Logistics/ QM/ WM/ CS/ HR/ ABAP/ BASIS/ BW/ TR/ SEM/ SRM/ CRM/ RE

General Requirements for all Candidates:

- Must possess a degree in a discipline related to the area of consulting or a University degree, preferably in Business, Accounting/Accounting Information Systems or Computer Science
- Fluency in English, both written and spoken
- Excellent analytical, problem-solving and consulting skills
- Strong communication and customer relationship skills
- Ability to work independently and proactively in a multi-national team

Technical Requirements for all Candidates:

- Undergone at least one full-cycle SAP implementation
- Proven skills in conducting Requirements Analysis, Business Process Design, Configuration and Implementation in the respective areas of expertise
- Programming expertise and skills is a prerequisite for ABAP
- SAP Certification is desirable in any of the above SAP Modules
- Cross-module SAP integration knowledge is highly valued
- SAP industry sector expertise is highly valued
- Project management, team leading or coaching skills are highly valued
- Presentation skills and the ability to support sales are desirable

Industrial Managers / SAP key-users with extensive industry experience may also apply.

Sales Officers (Female Only) - must have good personality with good communication skills in English with retail background.

Gulf Carton Factory (Accre. No. 10038453) in Dammam, Saudi Arabia is in need of the following:

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Fundraisers needed

Greenpeace South East Asia needs people to join and help in our on-street fundraising efforts in Metro Manila. This is a great opportunity to work with the largest and most active environmental NGO. This is a tough job so candidates should have an optimistic attitude and a no-excuses mentality. You will be working 8 hours per day, 5 days a week for a total of 40 hours and will be paid a very competitive salary. We are looking for people who are not afraid of targets and can work well in a team environment. Sales skills and customer service skills are an advantage. A genuine concern for the environment is a must.

Full training and support is provided to successful applicants.

Email your resume and letter of application not later than June 19, 2007 to:
amalie.obusan@ph.greenpeace.org

AN INTERNATIONAL COMPANY IS LOOKING FOR OPERATION SUPERVISOR/MANAGER

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. UNIVERSITY LEVEL IS A MUST
2. 5 YEARS OF HR SUPERVISOR/MANAGER OR ADMIN SUPERVISOR/MANAGER
3. STANDARD ENGLISH AND SKILLFUL OF OFFICE SOFTWARES
4. EXPERIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL CO. AND MANDARIN-SPEAKING IS PREFERRED

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS MAY SEND RESUMÉ TO:

TIANSHI PHILIPPINES INC.
5TH FLOOR KINGS COURT BUILDING 1
2129 CHINO ROCES ST. COR. DELA ROSA
MAKATI, PHILIPPINES
adamhuangjm@hotmail.com
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- Pref. CPA, exp. in construction company

WAREHOUSEMAN

- Willing to be assigned in Mexico, Pampanga

ESTIMATOR

- Well versed w/ structural steel & civil works/ vertical & horizontal construction

2233 Felix Huertas St., Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel. 711-3516 / 06 / 14

The **Center for Art, New Ventures & Sustainable Development (CANVAS)**
is looking for a

Business Development Officer

Qualifications: College graduate, preferably with business/finance background/experience and an interest in the arts.
Excellent writing and speaking skills. Computer literate.
Demonstrable entrepreneurial interest. Web development skills a plus.

Monthly Compensation: P18,000.00 to P22,000.00 (depending on qualifications) plus allowances & performance incentives.

This is a full time position.

If interested, please email your resumé, complete with references to **info@canvas.ph.**

The job description can be viewed at **http://lookingforjuan.blogspot.com.**

For more information on CANVAS, please visit our website: **www.canvas.ph.**

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Handles administrative and secretarial tasks such as answering telephones, preparation of business correspondences, keeping appointments, typing, filing, and record keeping.

The Requirements

- Female, 23 to 30 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year course from a reputable university
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- Articulate, hardworking, honest, highly-motivated, results-oriented
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Send your comprehensive resume and recent photograph to **Lor Calma Design and Associates, Inc.** G/F State Condominium 1 Bldg., 186 Salcedo St. Legaspi Village, Makati City or email at info@lorcalma.com. **We will respond only to qualified applicants.**

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Apply in person with Resumé, 2x2 ID pic., & Transcript

RSVP 2/F Salamin Bldg.,
197 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati

UN DP

United Nations (UN) Philippines
Department of Safety and Security (DSS)

Date Issued: 17 June 2007
Closing Date: 26 June 2007

NOTICE OF JOB VACANCY

POST TITLE	IT Assistant - DSS
LOCATION	Manila
DURATION	One year contract

The incumbent IT Assistant works under the supervision of the UN Security Adviser (SA) or, in his absence, the Deputy Security Adviser (DSA).

Description of duties:

The DSS IT-Assistant will be responsible for the Maintenance the UN-inter agency Emergency Communication System (ECS), including

- Support the implementation of the Integrated Security Clearance and Tracking system on country level and on regional level (East and South East Asia) by participating in the elaboration of implementation strategies and planning for its best functionality
- Support policy development for the Integrated Security and Tracking System (ISECT) by identifying policy shortfalls and system inefficiencies and by developing new ISECT-based solutions for processes within the Framework for Accountability
- Creation of manuals, briefing and training materials to be used in the training of staff in countries where ISECT is being or has been implemented.
- Address technical queries concerning the DSS Security Information System (SIS) including but not limited to ISECT and the Security Incident Reporting System (SIRS)
- Find and suggest solutions to improve IT workflows and to streamline and optimize the use of Information Technology in the DSS country office
- Establish and maintain records and documentation of her/his work
- Liaise with all other IT professionals in the UN-Security Management System
- Other IT related tasks for the DSS country office as assigned by the DSS (Deputy) Security Adviser
- Other operational tasks assigned by the DSS (Deputy) Security Adviser

The assignment may include field work for emergency interventions under harsh conditions, high physical stress or personal danger

Place of work and working hours:

The IT Assistant observe flexible working hours with a minimum of 40 hours per week and a core time of at least 6 hours per day, between 06:00 and 22:00 hrs.

Place of work is the Security Adviser's office in RCBC Plaza, Tower 1, 31st floor. Missions to other countries for ISECT implementation are not planned but might occur.

Qualifications:

Education:

- University Degree in computer science, computer engineering, information technology, software engineer or similar degree. A combination of related degrees and extensive work experience may be acceptable as well. Additional studies and courses are a strong asset.

Technical Skills:

- Proficiency in MS Office applications (Word, Excel, Power Point, Outlook, Internet explorer)
- Knowledge and experience in application development in ASP (active Server Page) and Java Script, Visual B Script, ASP net 2, XML.
- Experience with Web Servers IIS (Internet Information Service)
- Knowledge and experience with MS Access databases, VB script and HTML

Competencies:

- Ability to work effectively under stress and with minimum supervision
- Ability to develop work objectives consistent with existing strategies and policies
- Strong problem solving skills and a pro-active attitude
- Ability to manage a range of activities simultaneously ("multi-tasking" capable)
- Willingness for continuous learning
- Good oral and written communication skills both in English and Tagalog language. Knowledge of any other UN language is a strong asset.
- Teamwork orientation; previous experience with the UN or another international organization is a strong asset;
- Police and NBI clearance;
- Full working knowledge of English language;
- Dedication to the United Nations principles and demonstrated ability to work in harmony with persons of different national and cultural background;
- Personal commitment to peace and reconciliation;

Funding: The contract is funded by the DSS special budget for the ISECT regional help desk

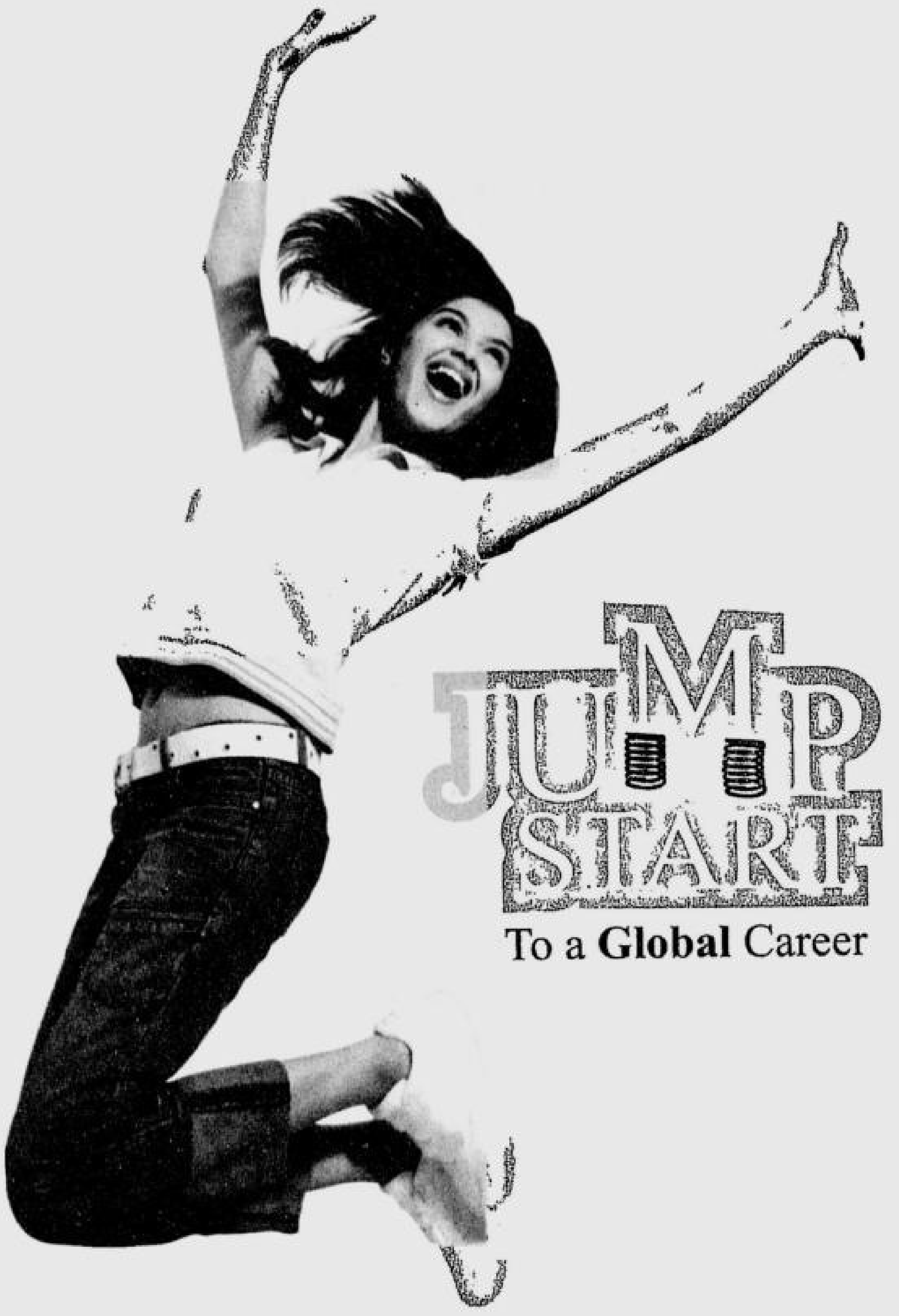
Applicants are requested to complete the UN Personal History Form (P.11), available in the UNDP website www.undp.org.ph/jobs via courier or fax to:

Development Services Support Center
United Nations Development Programme
30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower
RCBC Plaza, Ayala corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue
Makati City
Fax: (632) 9010200 / 8897177

Deadline for submission of application letters and CV's is on 26 June 2007. The application must be accompanied by two (2) references as attachment. Kindly note that only completed P.11 forms with two attached references will be reviewed.

Please note that only the short-listed candidates will ontacted.

The United Nations Organization strongly encourages applications from qualified female candidates. The UN-offices are a non-smoking environment.



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Alabang, Muntinlupa City 1781

Makati
40th Floor PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Avenue
corner VA Rufino Street, Makati City 1226

Ortigas Center
29th Floor Discovery Suites, ADB Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600

Please bring your resume, one 2" x 2" picture, photocopy of your latest payslip (if applicable), and one valid ID.

You may also e-mail your resume to **servicecenterjobs@hsbc.com.ph** or call the Recruitment Hotline at **02 859 4377.**

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Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

KAPIT-BISIG LABAN SA KAHIRAPAN – COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED DELIVERY OF SOCIAL SERVICES (KALAHI-CIDSS)

(The flagship anti-poverty project of the Government of the Philippines implemented by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), with funding support from the World Bank)

The KALAHI-CIDSS Project recently received a technical assistance grant from the Japan Policy and Human Resources Development (PHRD) facility. The approved grant aims to:

1. Address project constraints by providing technical assistance to strengthen the overall sustainability of the project investments through capacity development in the areas of: (a) technical design and planning for sub-projects; (b) economic analysis of sub-projects; and (c) organizational development for managing, operating and maintaining completed sub-projects;
2. Develop a systematic approach to learning and knowledge sharing, through the establishment of learning networks and popularization of the Project's CDD approaches, best practices and lessons learned.

Towards the above, the Project will engage the services of a:

Knowledge Product Development Consultant

SCOPE OF WORK:

1. Edit (technical and substantive) 10 manuals, 3 booklets, 6 handbooks, 1 training module, and 1 source book that were produced by various PHRD consultants;
2. Illustrate (sub-contracted) 17 booklets, handbooks and manuals for community volunteers;
3. Develop a design concept and produce (sub-contracted) camera-ready layout of 10 manuals, 3 booklets, 6 handbooks, 1 training module and 1 sourcebook;
4. Pre-test the developed products with a sample of the target audience and make the necessary improvements based on the pre-test results;
5. Conduct consultation meetings with key Project staff during the course of engagement and provide the management with progress updates and feedback;

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Graduate of any communication-related course;
- Excellent writing and editing skills in English and Filipino;
- At least seven (7) years of solid experience in writing, editing, and production of materials, preferably for community development and development-oriented projects;
- Strong conceptual skills, with demonstrated capability to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate knowledge product development processes;
- Knowledgeable in topography and graphic design software;
- Knowledgeable in social processes for community-based and community-driven development projects; familiar with key issues in empowerment, poverty alleviation and institutional reforms.

DURATION OF ENGAGEMENT: The Consultant shall be engaged for a period of one hundred twenty (120) person-days spread over twelve (12) months.

Rate: PhP1,266,720.00

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ABOVE POSITIONS:

1. Application letter briefly stating how you meet each of the qualification standards (Maximum of 2 pages);
2. Latest CV;
3. One writing sample (original, maximum of 5 pages);
4. A list of references (with full contact details) from the last three previous employers.

Interested applicants must submit all of the above to: **The Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)**, DSWD, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, with telephone number 931-8101 loc 217/ 951-71-16 (Fax) or by e-mail to bacsec@dswd.gov.ph; dswdbacsec@yahoo.com on or before 25 June 2007.

(Sgd.) **FLORITA R. VILLAR**
Assistant Secretary and
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Applicants who are fluent in any of these languages may have an advantage: Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Spanish, Russian and French.

Fresh graduates are welcome to apply.

Send resume via e-mail to **hire@iasasia.com**

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Master's and teaching experience is a plus. Salary will be commensurate with education and experience. Interested parties may apply in person or send resume to the following contacts:

STI College Caloocan
357 GM Sandoval Bldg., 10th Ave.,
Caloocan City
Email Address: e2e_sti@yahoo.com
Contact Person: Ms. Caroline G. Ancheta
(College Administrator)
Telefax. No: 365.65.49

STI College Novaliches
Jordan Plains Bldg., Jordan Plains Subd.,
Novaliches, Q.C.
Email Address: e2e_sti@yahoo.com
Contact Person: Ms. Chit N. Arciaga
(College Administrator)
Telefax. No: 936.03.61

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A. **CAR AIRCON TECHNICIAN**
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STILL SEARCHING FOR that elusive job? Do you want a rewarding career? This is the best venue for you! Come and explore your horizons!

Gait and Prance Events and Talents Management is staging the Jobs and Beyond Part 3, dubbed as "Robinson's Galleria Jobs Fair 3" to be held on June 18 and 19, at the Fountain Area (near the Food Court) of the Robinson's Galleria Mall in Ortigas, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free.

The following companies which are in need of applicants for local employment jobs: NCO Group, People Support Phils., Ascend Asia Worldwide Marketing Solutions, Inc, Infonxx Phils., Inc, Pacific Connexion Consulting Phils., Inc, and E-Telecare Global Solutions, Inc. – these are call centers which have different positions open. Also joining is Citibank, N.A., Jobstead Inc, and Pointman Placement Specialist Inc. Other companies from the different sectors of industry will also showcase their portfolio. The event is in cooperation with Robinson's Land Corporation / Robinson's Galleria Mall, and with supervision of Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and Public Employment and Service Office (PESO).

For more info, call hotline number 255-8229 and 497-5131 or text to 0928-4957529 or email to Gaitandprance@yahoo.com.

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POONGSAN MICROTEC PHILIPPINES, INC.

Poongsan Microtec Phils., Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of the Korea-based Poongsan Microtec Coporation, which emerges as a major leadframe supplier around the world. Philippines is one of the emerging countries as a semi conductor business center in Asia and it's easily accessible to other Southeast Asian countries as well as East Asian countries, wherein PSMP is now located in Clark Especial Economic Zone Pampanga.

Our company is now in need of high caliber individuals to further develop strengthen the organization and management relationship through team work and structural overall enhancement of every employee.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Good leadership through enhancement of every individual's talents.
2. Improvements in manufacturing to support the progress of technical which possesses production process.
3. Administrative development for future growth of the company
4. Possess in good designed and reliability towards high technology in semi con industry
5. Manageable for electronic communications and system probable improvement

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Maximum Managerial level - with at least 4 years experience

POSITION	NO. OF NEED	MAJOR
1.1. ADMIN MANAGER	1	BS Psychology, with Phd is an advantage

2. Maximum Engineering level perferably with license (for Managerial level) - with at least 4 years experience

POSITION	NO. OF NEED	MAJOR
2.1. PRODUCTION DEPT. MANAGER	1	BS Chemical / Mechanical Engineering
2.2. PRODUCTION SECTION MANAGER	2	BS Chemical / Mechanical Engineering
2.3 MAINTENANCE SECTION MANAGER	1	BS Mechanical / Electrical Engineering

3. Minimum Engineering level with license (for Engineer level) - no experience or fresh graduate is acceptable

POSITION	NO. OF NEED	MAJOR
3.1. PCO	1	BS Chemical Engineering
3.2. PRODUCTION ENGINEER	2	BS Chemical / Mechanical Engineering
3.3. TOOLING ENGINEER	1	BS Mechanical Engineering

4. Minimum Engineering level (for Operator level) - no experience or fresh graduate is acceptable

POSITION	NO. OF NEED	MAJOR
4.1. OPERATORS	10	BS Chemical / Mechanical / Electrical

5. BS Information Technology (for define position) - with at least 2 years experience

POSITION	NO. OF NEED	MAJOR
5.1. EDPS SENIOR ENGINEER / ASSISTANT MGR	1	BS Information Technology

6. Must be of impeccable integrity with good moral character.
7. With excellent good communication skills for both oral and written
8. Must be computer literate
9. Willing to relocate in Pampanga & approach On Job Training (OJT) in Korea.
10. Preferably who has an experienced in a leadframe manufacturing or semi conductor industry.

POONGSAN MICROTEC PHILIPPINES, INC.
Bldg. N2710 Clark Especial Economic Zone
Clarkfield, Pampanga, P.O. Box 1579
email address: meann@psmp.com.ph
website: www.psmc.co.kr.
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The State of Kuwait

The Ministry of Defense in the State of Kuwait is looking for:

- **(1) Architect**
- **(1) Construction Engineer**
- **(4) Architectural Draughtsman**
- **(3) Constructural Draughtsman**
- **(2) Optical Fiber Networks Engineer**
- **(2) Communication and Security System Engineer**
- **(1) Mechanical Engineer – Sanitary works and networks**
- **(1) Mechanical Engineer – Equipment and kitchens**
- **(1) Coasts & specifications preparation Engineer**

- Interested applicants must submit accredited copies of their academic training certificates.
- Applicants for engineering positions must not be over 55 years old.
- Applicants for technician position must not be over 40 years old
- The salary will be according to academic qualification and years of experience and shall be determined after conducting the interview.
- The chosen candidates will enjoy healthcare benefits at the Military of Defense's hospital: Jabir Al-Ahmad for Armed Forces

Detailed curriculum vitaé and other supporting documents should be sent to the following address:

EMBASSY OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT
1230 Acacia Road, Dasmariñas Village, Makati City

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ACCOUNTANT

Qualifications : Applicants must be licensed with 5 years experience on the job.

Qualified persons can send their resumé with a copy of your licenses and appropriate certificates with a contact Tel. / Mob. Number to:

Ms. Cynthia F. Ofilada
Overseas Marketing Directress
09183956886

Note: MEDEVAC Representative will be holding an interview within this month of June 2007.

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- ☑ With natural leadership ability and adequate communication skills.
- ☑ Willing to be assigned in various sites.

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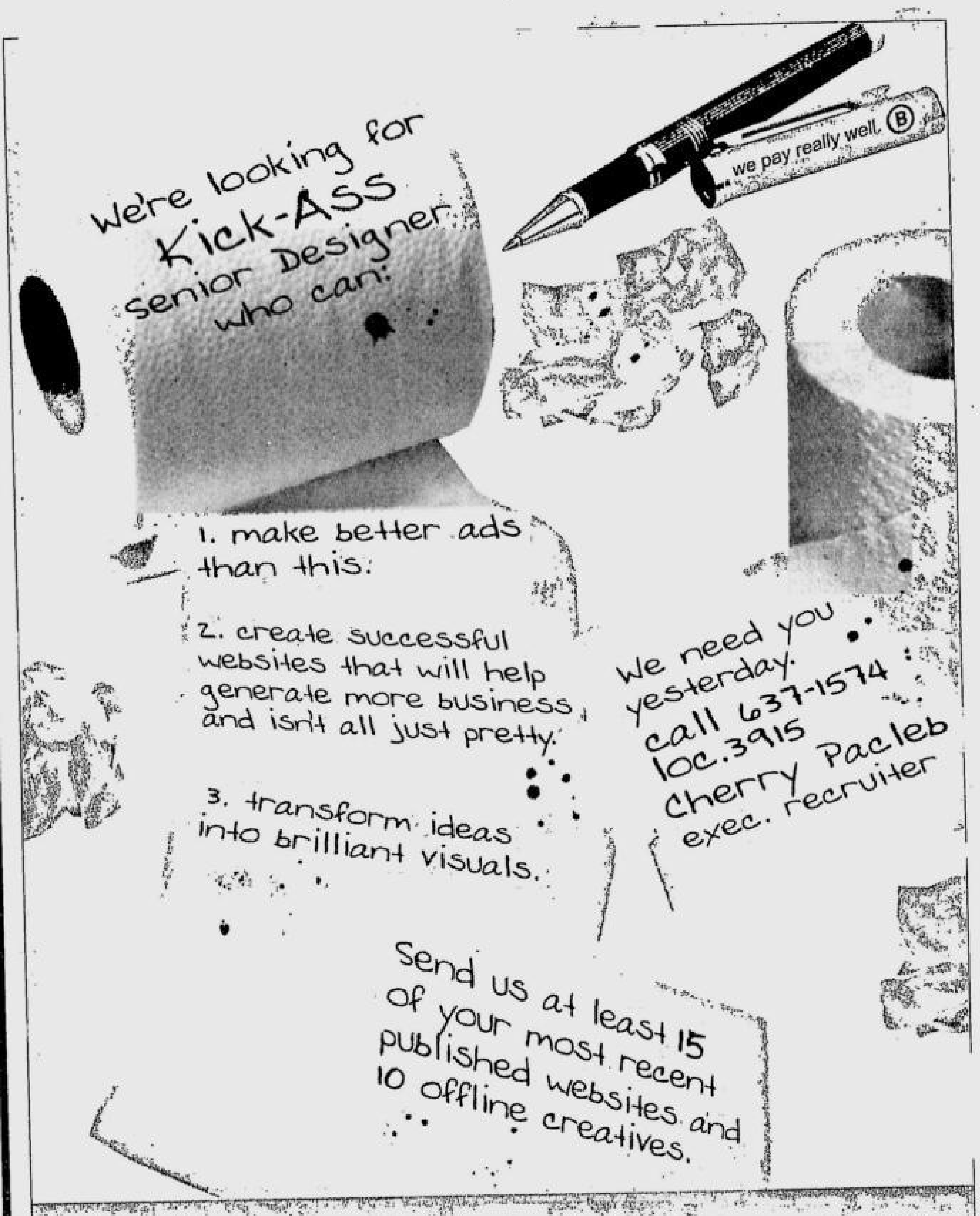
Email: ebmuscat@motolite.com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BOOKKEEPERS. Male/female; below 30 yrs old; Preferably single; B S Accountancy graduate with at least 2 yrs experience in bookkeeping; Can prepare and analyze financial statements; computer-literate.

ACCOUNTING CLERKS. Female; single; 20-30 yrs old; B S Accountancy graduate with at least 2 yrs experience in general accounting work, preparation of payroll and computation of SSS, Philhealth, Pag-ibig contributions. Must be computer-literate.

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Humanitarian Aid
European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department

National Economic and Development Authority

United Nations Development Programme

"Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management in Sub-national Development and Land Use/Physical Planning" Project

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Positions	Man-months
1 Team Leader (Local)	10
1 Urban and Regional Planner or URP (Local)	10
1 Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Expert (Local)	8

BACKGROUND

The National Economic and Development Authority is mandated to formulate development and physical plans such as the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan, National Framework for Physical Planning, Regional Development Plans and Regional Physical Framework Plans. Given the Philippines' vulnerability to natural hazards, mainstreaming DRM in the development and physical framework plans is necessary to ensure that socioeconomic development gains are not eroded by impacts of disaster occurrences. Specifically, hazard maps/data and risk assessment should be incorporated in the plans to ensure appropriate use of the land, proper siting of development undertakings, and identification of appropriate mitigation technologies.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Basic tasks include: (a) formulate the scope and work schedule for the project; (b) prepare policy papers on mainstreaming DRM in national planning documents, as well as in project development and evaluation; (c) prepare guidelines on mainstreaming DRM in regional/provincial development and physical framework plans. The guidelines will have regional and provincial applications with specific region and province as case studies; (d) prepare learning materials for assigned chapters/modules and serve as resource person during trainings and workshops; and (e) provide technical assistance to regional and provincial units in preparing DRM-enhanced plans.

The selected candidates will constitute the project's team of specialists. Individual assignments will be defined once the scope of work is finalized and the team organized.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- For Team Leader: minimum 15 years experience on DRM, land use and physical planning (LUPP), and urban and regional planning (URP)
- For URP and DRM Expert: minimum 8 years experience on DRM, LUPP, and URP
- With advance degree in any of the following: DRM, land use and physical planning, urban and regional planning, physical sciences (e.g., Geology, Meteorology), engineering and other related courses
- Excellent technical and analytical skills
- Excellent written and oral communication skills including the capacity to relate to both internal and external constituencies of this activity
- Must have GIS/mapping skills
- Worked with international development agencies, national government agencies & local government units

Please direct inquiries and/or send your application letter, curriculum vitae with photo, and proposal on how DRM can be mainstreamed in regional/provincial development and physical framework plans, and their proposed outline of the DRM guidelines (maximum 5 pages) to:

Susan Rachel G. Jose, Director III and OIC
Regional Development Coordination Staff;
National Economic and Development Authority
12 St. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
E-mail: sgjose@neda.gov.ph; rbmallorca@neda.gov.ph
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION IS 27 JUNE 2007.

HIRING

CIVIL ENGINEER
- Male, Licensed
- Experienced in Subd. Dev.

ACCOUNTANT
- Female, CPA
- With 2-3 years Financial and Accounting work experience.

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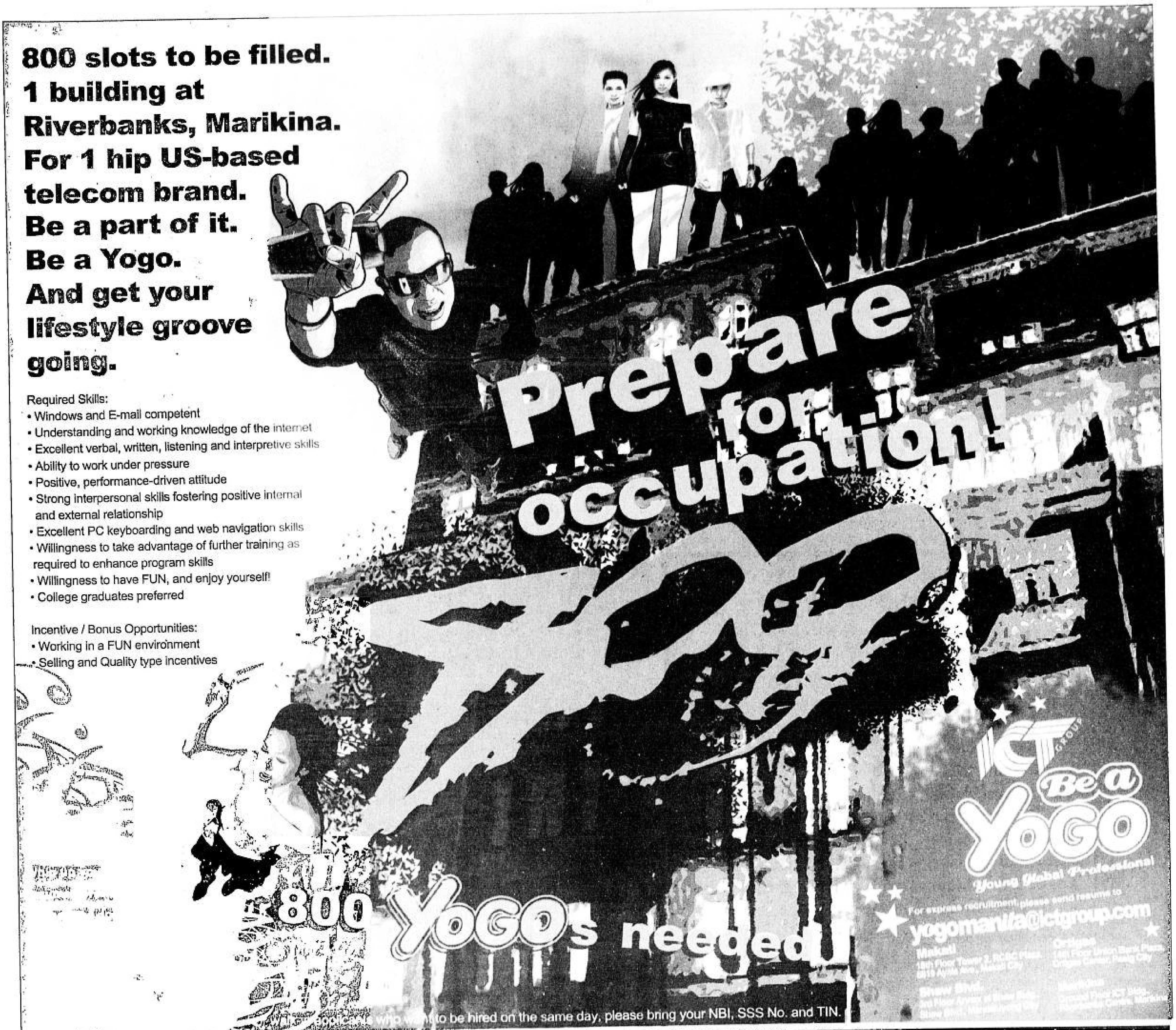

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- Understanding and working knowledge of the internet
- Excellent verbal, written, listening and interpretive skills
- Ability to work under pressure
- Positive, performance-driven attitude
- Strong interpersonal skills fostering positive internal and external relationship
- Excellent PC keyboarding and web navigation skills
- Willingness to take advantage of further training as required to enhance program skills
- Willingness to have FUN, and enjoy yourself!
- College graduates preferred

Incentive / Bonus Opportunities:
- Working in a FUN environment
- Selling and Quality type incentives

For express recruitment, please send resume to
yogomanila@ictgroup.com

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applicants who want to be hired on the same day, please bring your NBI, SSS No. and TIN.

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- ➲ Philippine Call Center Roadmap 2010
- ➲ Response to the Roadmap from the Government, Education, Real Estate, and ICT Sectors
- ➲ Panel discussion of top Call Center Executives
- ➲ Conference Tracks: Operations, People, Solutions, Career Development, and Captives
- ➲ Debate: Long-term career or dead-end job?
- ➲ Special interest group (SIG) sessions for HR managers, workforce managers, QA managers, IT managers, and facilities managers

A REAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT
- ➲ Get a more in-depth understanding of call center operations
- ➲ Learn best practices from successful call centers
- ➲ Get updated with the newest products and technologies
- ➲ Network with your peers and vendors

WHO SHOULD ATTEND
- ➲ Call Center Professionals
- ➲ CEO, CIO,COO,CTO
- ➲ Site Directors
- ➲ Telemarketing Managers
- ➲ Operations Managers
- ➲ Customer Service Heads
- ➲ HR Managers
- ➲ Business Development Managers
- ➲ IT Managers
- ➲ Support Industries

CONFERENCE (Tentative Topics)

DAY 1: JULY 10, TUESDAY					DAY 2: JULY 11, WEDNESDAY			
OPERATIONS TRACK	*PEOPLE TRACK*	*SOLUTIONS TRACK*	*CAREER DEVELOPMENT TRACK*	*CAPTIVES TRACK*	*OPERATIONS TRACK*	*PEOPLE TRACK*	*SOLUTIONS TRACK*	*CAREER DEVELOPMENT TRACK*
Driving operational excellence	Using and applying HR metrics	Collaborating with IT What every call center manager needs to know	7 habits of highly effective call center managers	How to overhaul your call center: When, why, and how to switch directions	Outbound What you should know about compliance and dialing	Implementing an employee development program	Agent desktop detox Simplifying and integrating the agent's numerous tools	Setting up your team
Developing your call center's strategic roadmap	Growing a learning organization	Open source and IP telephony	Seize control of your team - for life	Transforming from a cost center a profit center	Achieving operational efficiencies	HR as a line management function	Securing your information in a fiercely-competitive environment	Developing your career path
Using knowledge management in your center	Understanding the Gen Y career psyche	Extreme makeover: Call center technology management's new look	EQ and Leadership Success	Maximizing your infrastructure Ways to make the most out of your facility, technology & other investments	Putting metrics into action	Combating call center attrition	Integrating chat, e-mail, and other non-voice technologies	Self-defense for call center professionals
An introduction to Six Sigma for contact centers	Finding your next 1,000 Alternative recruitment options	Business continuity and disaster recovery planning	How to take your call center career to the top of the heap	Mixing and managing in-house and outsourced customer service services	Raising your call center's profile. How to project your image as the employer of choice	Living the future of HR today	Moving towards integrated workforce optimization	Stress and health management

➲ Topics are subject to change without prior notice ➲

Learn from the country's top industry experts

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Executive Director-HR
TeleTech

☐ **KAREN BATUNGBACAL**
President, Asia Pacific
ICT Group

☐ **BONG BORJA**
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General Manager
Call Center Academy

REGISTRATION FORM

A. Complete profile and contact information (*PLEASE PRINT*).

Name ____________________
Company: ____________________
Job Title ____________________ Department: ____________________
Business Address: ____________________
Tel. No. ____________________ Fax. No.: ____________________
Mobile No: ____________________ Email Address: ____________________

B. Payment may be deposited to any **Banco de Oro branch**
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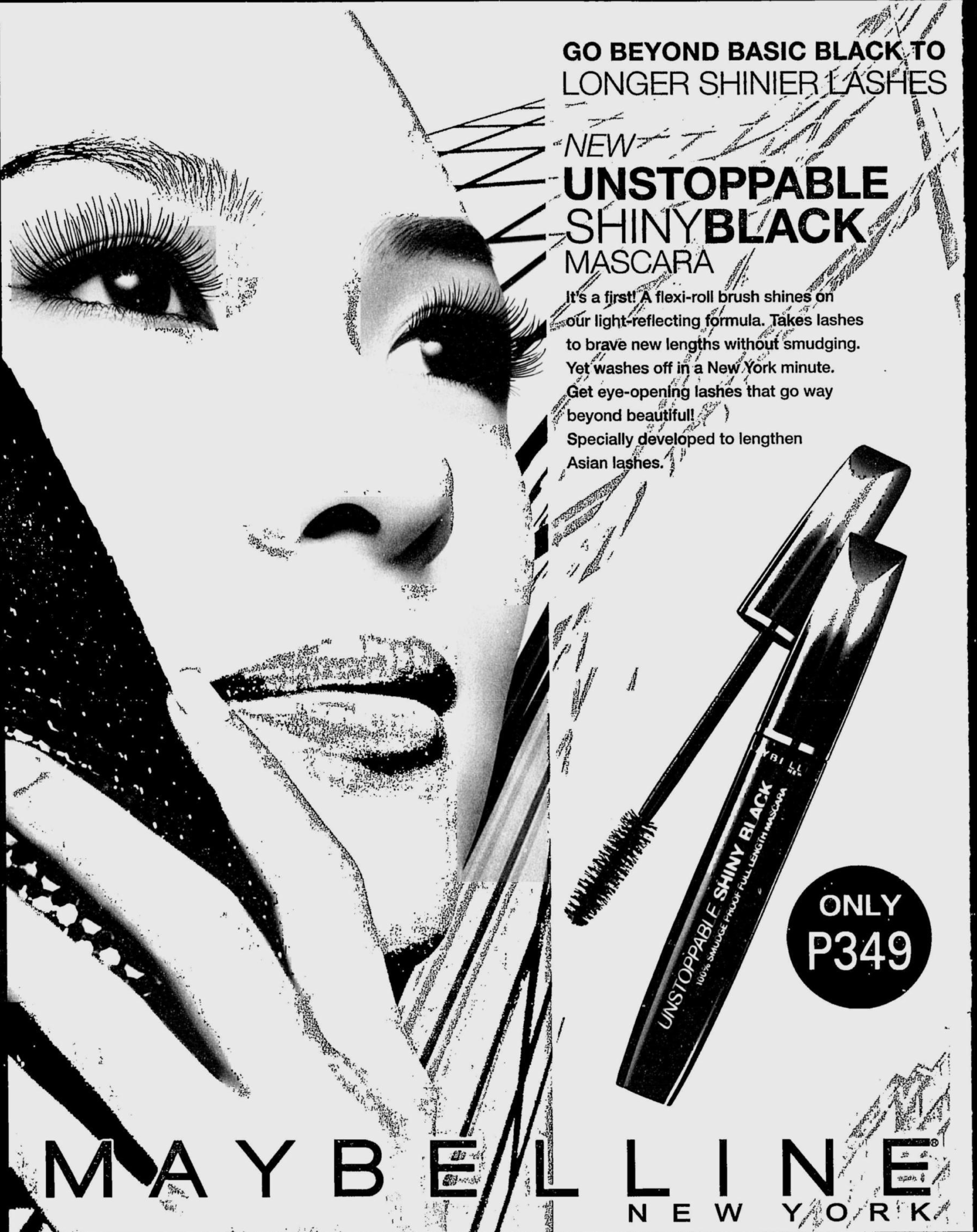
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